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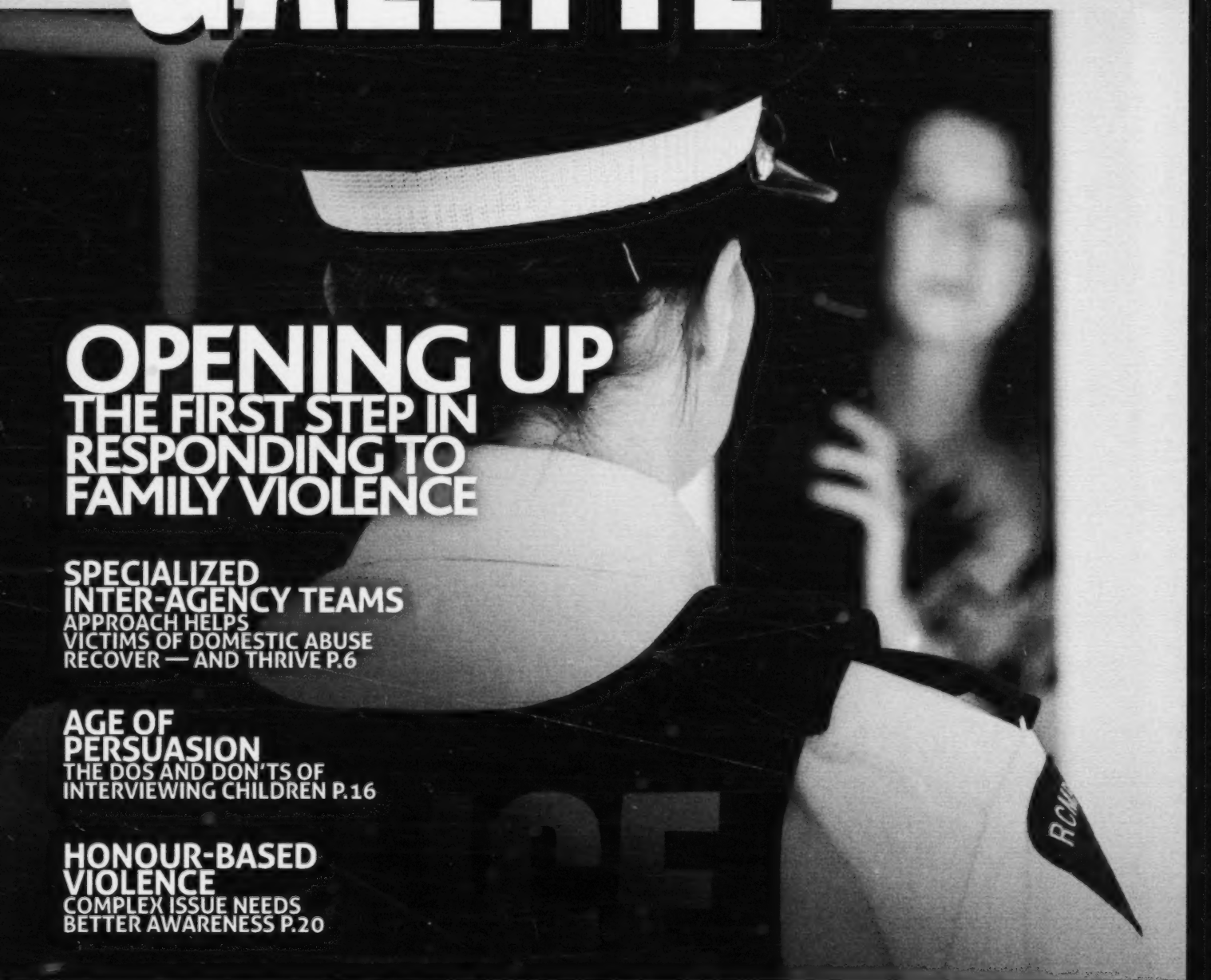

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GAZETTE
Serving the police community since 1939
Vol. 78, No. 2, 2016
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WHEN RELATIONSHIPS TURN VIOLENT

Back when I worked as a budding reporter for my local weekly, I interviewed a young woman for an article and published her photo alongside it. After it went to print, a very friendly guy turned up at our news office wanting to know where we had taken her photo and asking for her phone number so he could reconnect with an "old friend." It didn't feel right. Sure enough, he turned out to be her abusive ex-boyfriend.

In this issue, we explore one of the most difficult and pervasive problems in our communities — relationship violence. While police have come a long way in how they intervene in these calls — placing added focus on the victims and their safety — the cases remain challenging, complex and dangerous for all concerned.

For our cover story, Amelia Thatcher delves into how police are working hard to change the outcomes for victims by improving how they share, communicate and act on high-risk cases.

She also examines the results of a study in the Northwest Territories that examines intimate partner violence in remote communities. The information will help police target their own training and refer victims to available resources.

As family violence also extends to dating violence, Eric Stewart looks at how police and other organizations are reaching out to young people to talk frankly about what is and what isn't healthy in a relationship.

We also look at the complex nature of honour-based violence. C/Supt. Shahin Mehdizadeh explains why police need to work on their relationships with members of cultural communities, what they should be aware of during an investigation, and how to keep victims safe even when the main perpetrators are behind bars.

Children are by far the most vulnerable victims of family violence. RCMP Cst. Michael Simpson touches on the best ways to approach children who are subjected to violence in the home. His tips on how to talk to a child are invaluable.

And Lieut. Derek Prestridge of the Texas Department of Public Safety describes a program that trains patrol officers to identify children who are victims of abuse or abduction during traffic stops. One key piece of advice: speak directly to the child.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we hear from the Calgary Police Service's Elder Abuse Response Team. Created in 2011, CPS works with other support services to ensure older people have a safe place to turn when family members or other trusted people become abusive.

Family violence isn't a nice topic. It's often difficult to address. And it's not going away. For these reasons, we hope this issue offers some useful advice for those of you who see far too much of it in the course of your work, but continue to make a difference.

— Katherine Aldred

CORRECTION

In "Live-tweeting a terrorist attack" (Vol. 78, No. 1), the individuals involved in felling Parliament Hill attacker Michael Zehaf-Bibeau were inaccurately identified as a squad of RCMP tactical officers, when they were in fact RCMP regular members and former House of Commons Protective Service members (now the Parliamentary Protective Service). We apologize for the error.

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HOW TO REACH US:

RCMP *Gazette*
73 Leikin Drive,
M8 Building, 1st Floor, Room 801
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2
CANADA

Phone: 613-843-4570
E-mail: gazette@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Internet: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/gazette

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ON THE COVER:
Police are working hard to change the outcomes for victims by improving how they communicate, share information and respond to calls about family violence.
Photo: Serge Gouin, RCMP

CADAVER DOG HELPS CLOSE COLD CASES

By Amelia Thatcher

Cst. Brian Veniot

Doc, the RCMP's first cadaver dog, can detect human scents buried half a metre into the ground, and is currently training to identify scents in water

Doc smells what most of us can't. His nose is sharply attuned to detect human remains that can be years — or decades — old. He is the RCMP's first and only cadaver dog, trained to help with older missing persons cases.

"All the RCMP dogs that are trained across Canada from Newfoundland to B.C. will find human remains, but they don't have the cadaver training," says Sgt. Rick Bushey, co-ordinator for RCMP Police Dog Services in Nova Scotia. "If you had an area where you thought there was a body buried that was two to three years old, that's where cadaver dogs come in."

Doc trained with a new profile of smells. While other RCMP dogs are taught to sniff out drugs or explosives, Doc is trained to detect the full spectrum of human scents over time.

"Whether it's been three years or 30 years, technically the dog should be able to find it," says Cst. Brian Veniot, Doc's handler. "The dog is a tool to find evidence, or rule out leads in a homicide investigation."

The five-year-old German Shepherd joined the force in 2011, when he was trained to look for explosives at the Halifax airport. At the suggestion of Bushey, Doc and Veniot completed four months of training with the Human Remains Detection Program in Nova Scotia to become the first certified RCMP cadaver dog team last summer.

"My dog can detect something that's been buried, that's in gravel, even in the water," says Veniot. "Even in wet ground with sod over it, where there's no evidence of anything being there, he hits it easy."

To help train Doc, Veniot partnered with Nova Scotia's chief medical examiner, Dr. Matthew Bowes. The training was possible thanks to residents who donated tissue through the province's Centre for Forensic Medicine.

"If you've lost a loved one, at the very least you want them back and you want closure," says Bowes. "If we know that a body has gone missing, we now have another tool in our toolbox to locate that individual."

Doc worked on 16 cases in 2015, and while he hasn't found anything, he's been used to rule out locations of interest in most of these files. He's currently working with RCMP across Atlantic Canada.

"The goal is to find something that someone is trying to hide," says Veniot. "If there's something under his nose, he's going to tell me it's there."

RAP WORKSHOP CONNECTS POLICE, YOUTH

By Eric Stewart

Last spring in Bandon, Ireland, a team of local youths came together to produce their very own rap tracks in a workshop put on by the local Garda — Ireland's police force.

The seven-hour workshop was attended by eight young people, all members of the Bandon Youth Project, which is an initiative providing mentorship and diversion to at-risk kids in the community. They got a chance to work closely with Garry McCarthy (GMC Beats), a veteran Irish producer who helped them write lyrics, choose backing tracks and record their raps.

"A lot of the songs were about them having their voice heard," says Community Garda Damian White, one of the key organizers of the workshop. "They spoke about issues in their own lives, and it was great to see them be able to channel their feelings into the music. I think the workshop helped them feel like we were listening — that their voices were being heard."

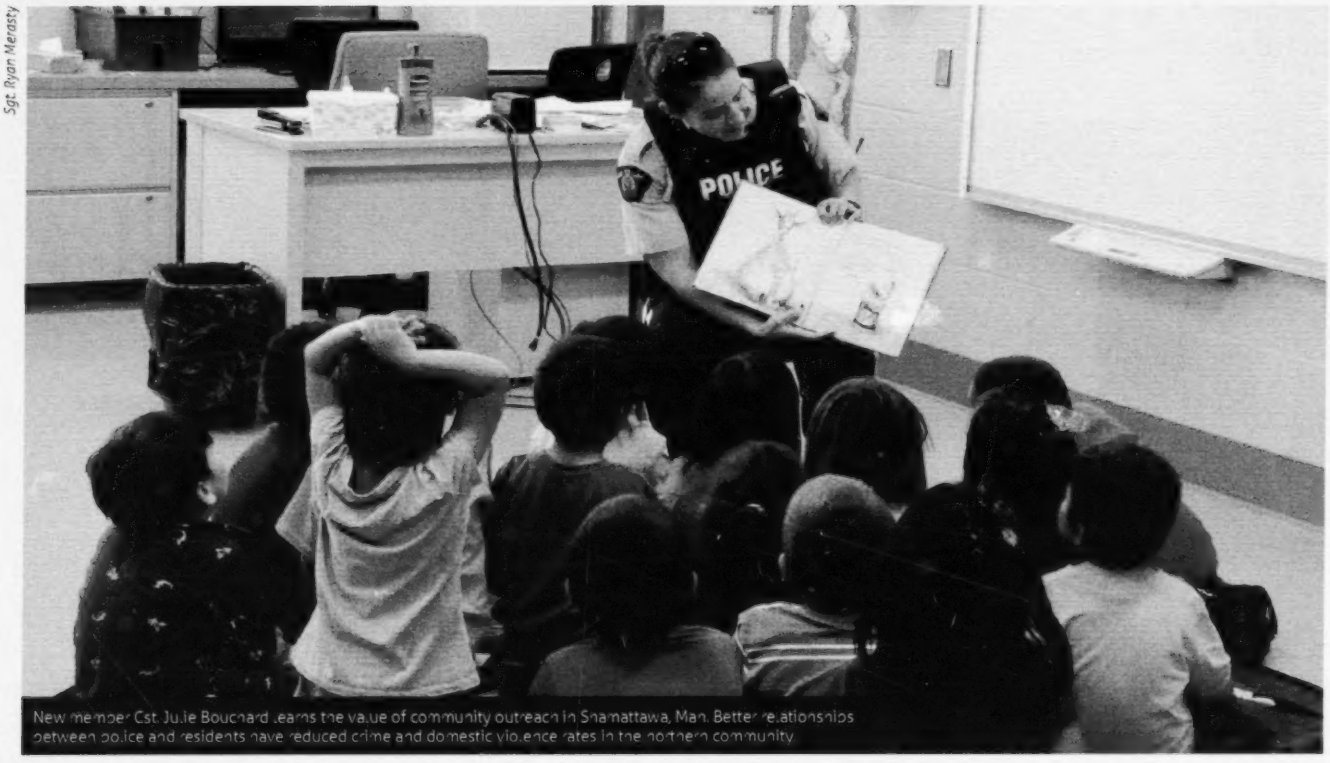
The workshop, which was hosted and sponsored by the local Riverview Shopping Centre, helped connect the youths to the police and the shopping centre — two groups who have had some contentious relationships with their community's younger members. The workshop is just one aspect of the Garda's strategy for youth engagement, which includes everything from pool tournaments to family festivals.

"We're looking to get young people from the Project involved in our community," says White. "We're working with them rather than ending up at their door. The more of these initiatives we have, the more we build a community spirit."

Both the shopping centre and the participants were delighted with the outcome, noted White. And while the workshop's over, the teens kept their songs, which they had a chance to perform for the entire town at the Bandon Summerfest.

"Rapping lets people tell the world who they are," says McCarthy. "It's another form of expression. I always tell people to embrace their own culture, embrace their own accent, their own slang words, and for them to be themselves."

Sgt. Ryan Merasty



New member Cst. Julie Bouchard learns the value of community outreach in Shamattawa, Man. Better relationships between police and residents have reduced crime and domestic violence rates in the northern community.

HIGH-RISK HOMES

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION HELPS ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

By Amelia Thatcher

In 2008, Allan Schoenborn, an abusive and mentally unstable father in Merritt, B.C., murdered his three children.

Months later, the community was shocked when the children's deaths were deemed "preventable" in a third-party report. The most surprising part: Schoenborn was known to both police and social services, and had been arrested three times in the week leading up to the murders.

"There were gaps in service delivery because of communication failure between the main agencies — the justice side and the community service groups," says Cst. Heather Hall, mental health co-ordinator at the Richmond, B.C., RCMP detachment. "It's hard to tell why it became systematic, I think people just had their own mandates. We didn't talk to each other as often as we should have."

Now eight years after the report, social services in B.C. including child protection, income assistance, mental health and the justice system are talking more to each other — and to police.

"Because of the Schoenborn case, cities started to talk about what they were doing about family and domestic violence," says Hall. "Richmond thought it was a great idea to bridge any communication gaps to really understand the high-risk nature of domestic violence cases."

But British Columbia isn't the only region that's shifting its perspective on family violence. New Brunswick is introducing collaborative groups to address the highest risk domestic violence cases. Saskatchewan is focusing on awareness and prevention, asking men, boys, women and girls to pledge against violence. And northern communities are discovering that the best solution to ending violence may be through community engagement.

Across the country, the RCMP is renewing its focus on family and domestic violence, creating partnerships and programs that incorporate prevention, intervention, enforcement and victim care.

LIFE-SAVING COMMUNICATION

Shortly after the Schoenborn report was released, Richmond devised a plan to make sure it would never happen again. In 2012, the city asked the RCMP, provincial bodies and community agencies to join a pilot project called *Safe Relationships — Safe Children*.

Together, representatives from each sector met once per month to develop training for front-line service providers such as social workers, nurses and doctors. Led by the RCMP, members of the project discussed ways to educate service providers on how to engage at-risk people, with the goal of preventing violence.

"As police, we're trained interviewers and we're not afraid to ask questions," says

Hall. "We were looking at different perspectives — how might a doctor ask someone about their domestic violence issues versus a social worker versus a police officer. All of them come in contact with offenders and victims, so it's important that those people ask the right questions."

Following the pilot project, Richmond decided to take the idea of inter-agency communication to the next level. In 2012, the city introduced a new provincial initiative into the community: Inter-Agency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs).

Originally formed by the Ending Violence Association of B.C., ICATs have now expanded into many communities across the province, including Richmond. The teams create collaborative working groups to help address family violence — especially those risky cases involving other factors such as mental illness or substance abuse.

Now a permanent fixture in the community, the Richmond ICAT meets once per month to discuss the highest risk family and domestic violence cases. In the meetings, agencies exchange information on the most dangerous cases — looking at the risk factors involved, discussing updates and determining actions to take.

"There's a real appetite for various types of collaboration in communities, because we're finally realizing that we can't do it alone — we need partners," says Hall. "Our role is to keep people safe and hold offenders accountable, so we need other service agencies to take part."

COMING TOGETHER

B.C.'s team-based approach to combating family violence has also taken root on Canada's East Coast. In New Brunswick, one of the RCMP's main priorities is addressing intimate partner violence.

That's why the RCMP and municipal police forces joined with the province's Department of Public Safety to create a Roundtable on Crime and Public Safety in 2011, and more recently, a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model.

Similar to B.C.'s ICATs, the goal of CCR is to create a multi-agency team that can help address high-risk and high-danger domestic and intimate partner violence cases. Once the model is up and running, local agencies will come together in regular meetings to share information and create safety plans for at-risk residents.

"We know that risk is dynamic," says Rhonda Stairs, a community program officer in N.B. "The CCR will allow community partners to share information continuously, as risk changes."

In order to measure the risk a family or person is facing, all police in New Brunswick have been recently trained to use the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) tool, created in 2003. With it, an officer can ask a victim key questions to determine a risk score.

If a person is in danger of revictimization, any organization can flag their case at the table. Then, the CCR group will create a plan to keep the victim and family safe.

"Different people in the community hold different pieces of information related to files — there are a lot of moving parts," says Stairs. "The RCMP is part of that discussion, and is committed to addressing domestic and intimate partner violence."

PROACTIVE PREVENTION

At the same time that B.C. and New Brunswick began upgrading their approaches to family violence, Saskatchewan expanded its victim services. Although these services are housed within RCMP detachments, there often isn't contact between the two. So, the RCMP hired Pat Lee as the provincial victim services liaison and domestic violence prevention co-ordinator.

She makes sure the RCMP is providing the proper tools and referrals, while ensuring that victim services have the resources to provide the best help possible. She also has the responsibility of co-ordinating and promoting initiatives to stop family and intimate partner violence.

"If we can focus on prevention, it lets people see that being reactionary, taking calls and going to scenes isn't always necessary," says Lee. "I want to do more community collaboration to get people to see that."

This year, Lee is travelling across the province, handing out white ribbons and asking people to pledge against family violence.

She's attending the RCMP Sunset Ceremonies, powwow weekends, conferences and visiting schools — all to start conversations and raise awareness on the issue.

"It's hard to acknowledge family violence, but most often, somebody in the community knows that it's going on. It's not something that can be hidden," says Lee. "We're trying to say, 'You can call this number, you can intervene, and here's how you can help.' If we can help one person — if we can prevent it one time — that's the goal."

Shamattawa, in northern Manitoba, is also focusing on preventative, proactive policing to combat family and domestic violence.

"We had one of highest rates for domestic violence, but in the last few years, it's decreased drastically," says Sgt. Ryan Merasty, detachment commander of Shamattawa. "That's a result of proactive policing — our guys going out and they know who the habitual offenders are. We target these people instantly."

Crimes against persons decreased by 38 per cent in Shamattawa between 2013 and 2015 — and a huge proportion of those crimes are sexual and domestic-related assaults, according to Merasty. Call volumes and number of prisoners also decreased in the same time frame — a sign that attitudes may be shifting.

"We've become a part of the community," says Merasty. "We set up barbecues, movie nights and gym nights where we play games with the kids and adults. We've dedicated more time to doing more community-based work, and it's helped. People understand that we're here to help."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Although every region in Canada faces its own set of challenges when it comes to dealing with family and domestic violence, similar solutions are reflected across the country. Communication, collaboration and proactive action have helped the RCMP face family violence in ways that have never been possible before.

Since the Schoenborn report, communication between government services, community groups and police has improved victim care in British Columbia. After four years in action, Richmond's ICAT has successfully tackled numerous cases, addressing the root causes of family violence, while keeping victims safe.

"I think we're all on the same page now — information is shared with the key partners in a much more timely manner," says Hall. "We have to remember that we're dealing with people, and people are complex. There's not an easy fix for these situations, so we have to work together to make a difference in domestic violence."

'THEIR HANDS ARE TIED'

COMBATING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN REMOTE TOWNS

By Amelia Thatcher

In rural and northern Canada, communities are small, resources are scarce and family violence is common. The Northwest Territories — one of Canada's northernmost regions — has more than seven times the national average for intimate partner violence (IPV), according to Statistics Canada.

"We've had women snowmobile out to a road and have their sister pick them up and bring them to the shelter. We've had women jump out of a truck while their husband is in the liquor store to take a cab to the shelter," says Lyda Fuller, executive director of the YWCA in Yellowknife, N.W.T. "In the small communities, it's really quite prevalent."

Now, these national statistics are being combined with data from the RCMP and interviews with front-line service workers, as part of a five-year research project wrapping up in late 2016. The results will provide the first detailed look at IPV in rural and northern areas.

The project — Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence — used mapping technology to see where crimes are reported, where enforcement happens, and where services are offered.

Led by the University of Regina in Saskatchewan, researchers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories collected data on domestic violence crimes. With the involvement of local community organizations like the YWCA, they determined the needs of people living with IPV, and what the gaps were in meeting those needs.

"Violence in these communities is normalized and we want that message out there that it's not OK, we can stop this," says Pertice Moffitt, lead researcher in Northwest Territories.

The project pointed out areas where services could be improved, with the goal of creating — and sustaining — non-violent communities.

ISOLATED INTIMACY

In the Northwest Territories, a third of communities don't have an RCMP presence. In many cases, especially in rural and northern areas, one RCMP detachment can have jurisdiction over a large geographic area.

On top of the isolation, most of these communities are extremely small — 27 out of 33 have populations of less than 1,000. As a result, many of these areas don't have easy access to support workers or victim services — there are only five women's shelters in the territory.

"We found that there are huge gaps in the territory where there aren't services provided," says Moffitt. "Every community has intimate partner violence, even those where there aren't resources available."

She says rural and northern residents face a near impassible list of barriers when it comes to being safe from violent family members. Isolation, lack of housing, limited access to transportation, absence of technology and various socio-economic factors such as income and culture, can all prevent a victim from getting help.

"Women feel like their hands are tied," says Moffitt. "They can go to a shelter, but when they come back, they go right back into the same situation they left. So who is it that they go to? How do they get there? Some people don't know, and that's a part of education and awareness that we're trying to promote."

EMERGENCY HELP

Awareness is important not only for community members, but also for the RCMP and service providers in remote areas.

A secondary part of the project looked at mapping out Emergency Protection Orders (EPOs) that had been filed by RCMP officers across the Northwest Territories. Similar to a restraining order, a court-imposed EPO protects the victim, ordering the abuser to stay away.

"In areas with a lot of EPOs, that tells me there's a high understanding of front-line workers about the resources available," says Sgt. Greg Towler, Criminal Operations in the Northwest Territories. "Areas where there are low amounts of EPOs but statistics show a high rate of IPV, that's where we will focus our RCMP awareness training."

Making sure RCMP officers — who are often the first responders and only resource in many communities — are aware of services, resources and avenues of support for victims is important for stopping the problem, says Towler.

Information from the project will be disseminated to community workers, policy makers and government agencies at the end of this year. But in the meantime, Fuller says it's important for the community to play a role in proactively combating partner violence.

"We really need communities to participate in the solutions and be in charge of what they want to do to address intimate partner violence," she says. "We need to empower communities to start a dialogue and create safe spaces for these people. It needs to become a dynamic process of learning and growth for the whole community."

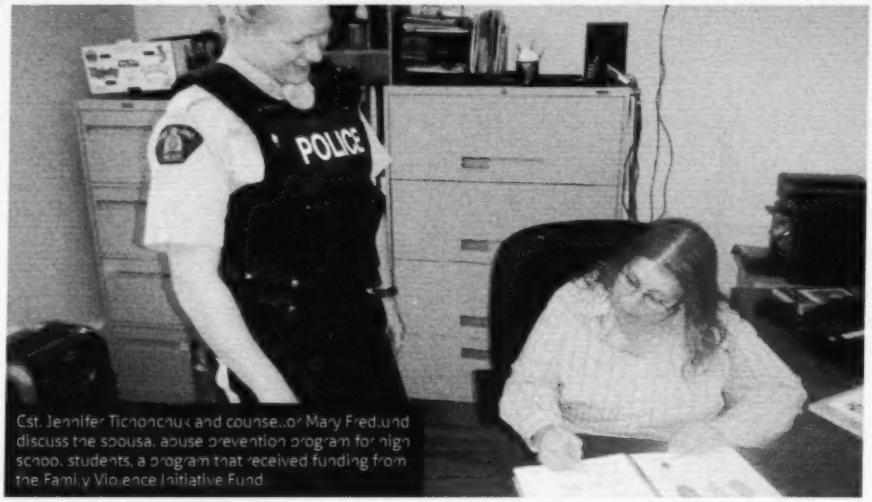
Many rural and northern communities don't have resources for victims of intimate partner violence — the YWCA in Yellowknife, N.W.T., is one of only five women's shelters in the territory.

Alayna Ward

MORE MONEY, FEWER PROBLEMS

COMMUNITIES DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

By Deidre Seiden



Cst. Jennifer Tichonchuk and counsellor Mary Fredlund discuss the spousal abuse prevention program for high school students, a program that received funding from the Family Violence Initiative Fund.

Sgt. Lorne Morisson

In Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, the Spousal Abuse Counselling Program helps abusers recognize why family and relationship violence is wrong, and provides them with tools to prevent them from offending in the future.

Family violence is a problem in the small, northern community — a problem that the local RCMP detachment was determined to make better.

"We want to improve the quality of family lives," says Sgt. Lorne Morrison, Rankin Inlet RCMP. "We gear towards how we can make the community a better place."

When Morrison saw a call for proposals from the RCMP's Family Violence Initiative Fund (FVIF), he took action.

Morrison approached the counsellors from the spousal abuse program and asked if they had any ideas of what they could do with the funding if they applied. They suggested modifying their offender program for high school students.

"I loved that idea and it just exploded from there," says Morrison.

FUNDING THE FIGHT

Each year, the RCMP receives funding through the Family Violence Initiative, a federal commitment that brings together 15 departments and agencies to prevent and respond to family violence.

The FVIF distributes up to $50,000 to RCMP detachments and $25,000 in grant funding to non-profit community organizations and provincial, territorial and municipal partners that support initiatives that respond to issues of family violence within their communities.

The proposed project did receive funding in 2015. Two counsellors from the Spousal Abuse Counselling Program together with two RCMP police officers spent a total of 30, one-hour sessions with the Grade 10 class discussing topics like how to identify and recognize the different types of abuse.

"After a few sessions, we noticed a difference in how the students were treating each other and speaking to each other," says Morrison. "The hope is now that we've seen that immediate effect that it carries on so that when they are adults and have children they become the examples for their children."

Family violence is very broad and, as such, when the FVIF selects applicants they make sure they have an array of projects and initiatives from across Canada.

Cst. Maureen Greyeyes-Brant, manager of the fund for the RCMP, says a small amount of funding can have a big impact in a community.

"These projects and programs are getting the word out about family violence and the resources and services in their communities," says Greyeyes-Brant. "They've noticed a difference — a new knowledge — that's been provided to their community members and it helps everybody."

The Spirit of Peace Family Violence Prevention Program through the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in Manitoba also received funding from FVIF in 2015.

The grant went to a project they developed with Ndinawe, an integrated service centre for youth, to provide family violence prevention for at-risk indigenous girls as young as 14 and women in their 20s transitioning from living on a reserve to moving to the city.

The older women were able to share their personal experiences about surviving and preventing abuse in the group setting.

"The younger women heard that directly from someone that's lived it, and then the teachings and discussions on how to prevent or work through those experiences begins to naturally happen," says Angela Lavallee, a Spirit of Peace co-ordinator.

"We can facilitate with topics that we form related to violence prevention and intervention, but when you have a circle of women sharing, the energy is beautiful," she says.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Lavallee says the project's participants knew where the funding came from.

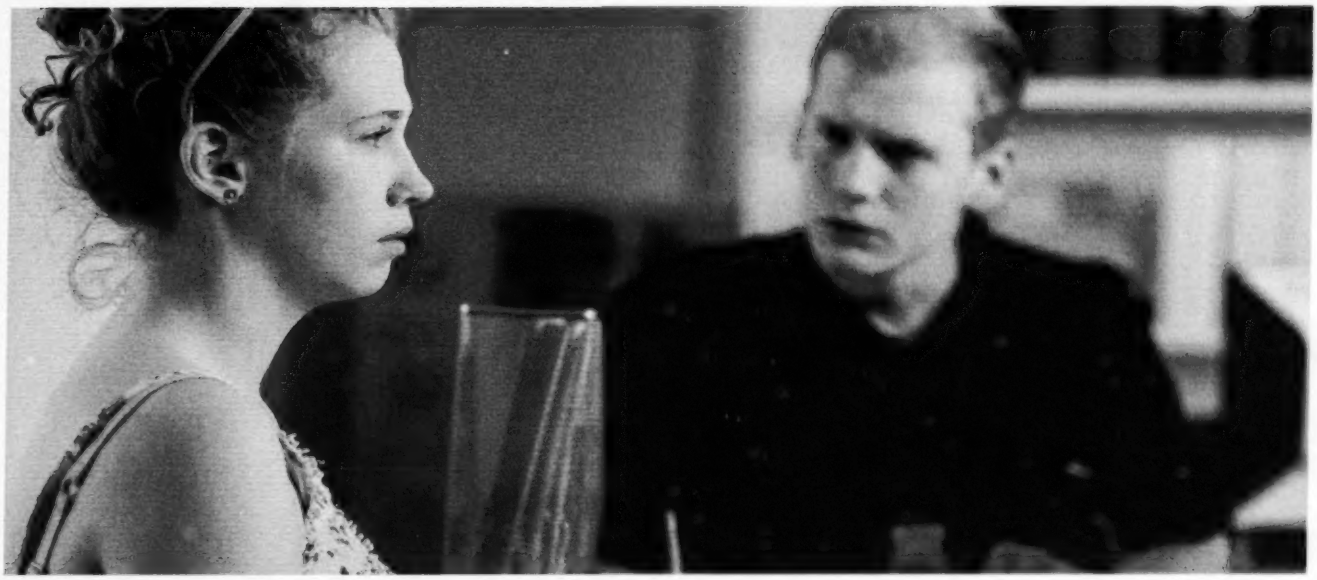
"It's empowering to have the RCMP acknowledge the importance of the project and to be able to give us this opportunity," she says. "It's valuable for our women to know that we are working together on preventing violence."

That partnership between communities and the RCMP is key in stopping family violence.

"It's an issue that everybody needs to address by working, networking and coming together to work on it," says Greyeyes-Brant. "It strengthens all of us."

For 2015-2016, the FVIF received 65 applications from across Canada, 30 of which were selected to get funding.

"It's an excellent program," says Morrison. "The funding is there and it's stuff that you see the benefits from. Sometimes you wonder if a program really works and this one does."



WHAT ONE POLICE ACTION HAS THE MOST POSITIVE IMPACT WHEN DEALING WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE?

THE PANELLISTS

- **Cst. Joan Harty, Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Coordinator, Fredericton Police Force, New Brunswick**
- **Cst. Kathleen Fossen, Domestic Violence Coordinator, Spruce Grove/Stony Plain detachment, Alberta, RCMP**
- **Nneka MacGregor, Executive Director of WomenatthecentrE and survivor of family violence, Toronto, Ontario**

CST. JOAN HARTY

In June 2014, the Fredericton Police Force developed the Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Co-ordinator (D/IPV Co-ordinator) position, the first of its kind within the policing community in New Brunswick. The goal is reduce the cycle of domestic and intimate partner violence in the Fredericton area.

When responding to a call for service involving domestic violence, a Fredericton Police Force patrol officer investigates the complaint, lays a charge when the elements of the offence are present, completes the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) when it meets the criteria, and completes the file. With the addition of the D/IPV Coordinator, follow-up with the victim takes place by the co-ordinator if the incident is considered high risk. Previously, the patrol officer would do the follow-up.

The D/IPV Co-ordinator reads all non-criminal and criminal domestic dispute files for the Fredericton Police Force, ensures the ODARA is complete and the D/IPV study codes are used. When the ODARA score falls in the high-risk category, the D/IPV Co-ordinator will follow-up with the victim and attempt to build a relationship and help to ensure a safety plan is in place. There are also times when the ODARA score doesn't reflect the risk associated with the case. The D/IPV Co-ordinator will make a follow-up call in these cases and flag the address as dangerous, if needed.

Offenders have a role in breaking the cycle of violence. If an offender is held for court in relation to a D/IPV incident, the co-ordinator will attend the cell area and attempt to speak to the offender. The goal is to provide information on services available for them.

Members of the public can visit the Fredericton Police Station for advice about domestic incidents, either for themselves or for someone else. In these cases, they are referred to the D/IPV Co-ordinator. The co-ordinator also takes daily calls from members of the public. The advice can be for themselves, children or relatives who live in the Fredericton area, children or family who live outside of the Fredericton area, or for friends. The Fredericton Police Force provides a consistent message to the public through the D/IPV Co-ordinator. When requested, the co-ordinator can speak about intimate partner violence to a larger audience within the community.

The D/IPV Co-ordinator and other Fredericton members instruct police officers, Atlantic Police Academy cadets and police volunteers on domestic and intimate partner violence and ODARA. This ensures that calls for service are responded to and investigated in the same manner.

Community partnerships are key in reducing the incidents of domestic and intimate partner violence. The D/IPV Co-ordinator has developed relationships with many gov-

ernment and non-government agencies within the City of Fredericton. Participation on committees and boards that relate specifically to domestic violence is instrumental in understanding the different needs within the community and what the community offers victims and offenders of D/IPV.

The risk in domestic and intimate partner violence complaints can be high. The D/IPV Co-ordinator meets bi-weekly with the New Brunswick Department of Social Development to discuss high-risk cases within the City of Fredericton.

The social workers set up case conferences for high-risk victims and invite the co-ordinator, other community agencies and family members who support the victim to help keep the victim safe. A case conference will also be done for the offender if he or she is willing to participate.

Will the D/IPV Co-ordinator position end domestic and intimate partner violence? That's the goal. Through partnerships, education and enforcement, the D/IPV Coordinator can have a real impact on this societal issue.

CST. KATHLEEN FOSSEN

Family violence investigations are the most complex, high risk and difficult files that police members investigate. What's become apparent to all agencies and support services over the past several years is that we can't do this work alone. Creating partnerships and forming collaborations is key to proper investigation, intervention and ultimately prevention.

With this in mind, in 2014, the Spruce Grove/Stony Plain detachment, in partnership with a local group, the Parkland and Area Response to Family Violence Committee, created the Domestic Violence Support Team (DVST). The DVST is an inter-agency collaborative group established for the purpose of promoting safety from violence through education, accountability and support for individuals and families who are affected by family violence.

The DVST consists of a specialized family violence RCMP member, a domestic violence court caseworker, a Victim Services Society advocate, a specialized family violence probation officer and a child welfare worker. The team members possess knowledge, training and expertise specific to family violence and are able to create a supportive environment for victims using empathy, compassion and non-judgement.

The DVST ensures that families have the appropriate supports required to maintain safety and move toward a family free from violence. The specialized team engages clients in a timely manner, assesses individual client needs, makes referrals, conducts risk assessments, provides comprehensive ongoing safety planning and arranges case consultations when appropriate. By using this approach, victims, offenders and their children are able to access community supports on an ongoing basis and are connected to appropriate intervention services within the community.

One area where the DVST has seen great success is within the justice system. For many victims of family violence, once the initial crisis is over and the matters are before the courts, victims commonly lack the confidence necessary to follow through as a witness to provide the necessary evidence to support a conviction. As a result, a high number of charges are withdrawn resulting in no accountability or opportunities for offender rehabilitation. The offender then returns to the home, and the cycle begins again.

The DVST maintains ongoing contact with victims throughout the court process and provides a conduit for communication between victims and crown prosecutors. These actions keep victims engaged with the court process and ensure offender accountability, effective treatment outcomes for offenders and less recidivism.

I believe that family violence can be prevented, and that true collaboration, sharing resources and creating partnerships are the keys to achieving this.

NNEKA MACGREGOR

In 2014, WomenatthecentrE embarked on a participatory research initiative to hear from female survivors who had experienced strangulation by an intimate partner. This came out of ongoing conversations that several members of our organization were having about their experience of violence. Although these women recognized how serious the assaults were, many were completely unaware that being strangled posed adverse short- and long-term risks to their health.

The executive summary outlines some of the key findings, including the participants' interactions with police. We know that most incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) aren't reported to police and our findings are in keeping with the national average currently at about one in three women calling police when assaulted.

We naturally want more women to call the police, especially when the assault they've experienced is as serious as strangulation. However, we understand the real barriers that women face, including fear of reprisals or escalating violence, if there are no consequences or accountability on the perpetrator at the end of the day.

We've seen in our most recent Court Watch initiative, where we monitored three of the specialized Domestic Violence Courts in Toronto, that regardless of the severity of the assault, perpetrators were most likely to receive Peace Bonds or a Conditional Discharge. The message this sends to victims is that the criminal justice system doesn't take their safety seriously.

Women say that this message often starts with an officer who either minimizes the gravity of the situation or blames her for the violence she's experiencing. In some instances, victims have been dually charged where an officer was unable to determine the primary aggressor, something that is worrisome, since this added dimension where women run the risk of being arrested will further deter reporting.

So, in thinking about the one police action that had the most positive impact on survivors of IPV, it was something common to all officers who the women praised: they were patient/empathetic, with a genuine understanding of the socially constructed, individually willed and culturally organized roots of IPV.

We know that officers must not show bias when taking statements, but saying something as simple as "this should not happen to anyone" makes a non-judgmental statement that applies to society at large but, at that moment, puts women at ease to disclose, without the shame and guilt they may feel.

Sitting at her level is less intimidating than standing over her, especially when asking the traumatizing and intimate questions that need to be asked. Attending training programs co–facilitated by female survivors is imperative.

For the women in our strangulation research — almost all of whom thought they were going to die that day — a patient and empathetic officer would have made a world of difference.

The Stylist and Bartender Tool Kit is an excellent resource for service professionals who want to help someone who they believe is a victim of relationship violence

SIGNS OF HARM

TOOL KIT LEVERAGES HAIR STYLISTS, BARTENDERS TO STOP VIOLENCE

By Jim Cessford, Chief Constable (rtd.), Delta Police Department, British Columbia

Domestic violence exists in every community in Canada. It doesn't discriminate against race, colour, religion or age. Perhaps the biggest challenge for police and other social services in dealing with relationship violence is that most of it, up to 70 per cent, is never reported.

Unfortunately, many victims — women, children and men — live with this dark secret and feel they don't have a way out. A collaborative project between the Delta Police Department, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) and the Network to End Violence in Relationships (NEVR) aims to change that.

Delta Police, like most other police organizations, takes on interns every year. Most come from criminal justice or police-related programs, but as part of a partnership with NEVR and KPU, Delta Police has worked with students from KPU's nursing program. While I retired from the Delta Police Department in 2015, I've continued mentoring nursing students from KPU because I believe deeply in the work they're doing to respond to domestic violence.

This most recent project spanned a number of groups of interns and focused on a unique approach to reaching out to silent victims of domestic violence. The nursing students, who have a variety of career goals from working in emergency rooms to mental health to pediatrics, were tasked with creating a tool kit for beauty salons and restaurants and bars to educate stylists and bartenders on the signs and intervention strategies around relationship violence.

The reason for choosing stylists and bartenders is because of their frequent interactions with the public. A hair stylist comes to know someone as a client and often friendships are formed between them. Stylists have close physical contact with their clients and can observe anything out of the ordinary on a woman around her head, neck and face area. Bartenders were chosen for a slightly different reason: their involvement with an individual who may be intoxicated and more likely to display concerning behaviours. This approach has proven effective in the United States.

Dr. Balbir Gurm is a professor in the KPU Nursing Program, the founder and facilitator of NEVR, and the driving force behind the tool kit.

"Our nurses are at the front line when it comes to relationship violence," Gurm says. "Many of them will treat victims first hand, and this project helps them understand the scope of the problem. Creating a tool kit connects the nursing students with others who have an important role to play, such as hair stylists who are as well situated as anyone to recognize when there is a problem."

As a culmination of the project, one group of interns had the opportunity to train staff at a hair salon in Delta, B.C., which was very well received.

"Stylists may not think about how important their role is in detecting and helping someone who may be victimized, but once they see the tool kit, they realize not only that they are part of the front line, but there are impactful ways they can help," says Gurm.

The Stylist and Bartender Tool Kit was the second tool kit created. Previously, NEVR worked with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) and created the Healthcare Professional Tool Kit.

The latest tool kit created by NEVR, supported by KPU, DIVERSEcity and PODV looks a bit different than what the students created, but is an excellent resource for any community, police agency or individual who wants to help someone who they believe to be a victim of relationship violence. Relationship violence is any form of violence between the victim and someone who is known to them, such as family members, partners or employers/employees.

The Community Champions Tool Kit is broader than the original concept, but the message is still the same: say something. #saysomething is a project funded by the Province of British Columbia and leverages social media to get the message out about how to help a victim of relationship violence.

HOW TO INTERVENE

The tool kit describes what relationship violence is, warning signs and how to intervene. A common belief is that relationship violence is physical (hitting, choking, pushing, etc.), when in reality, it can be far more complicated. It can be physical abuse, but victims can also suffer from emotional, psychological, financial, sexual and spiritual abuse.

A person who witnesses abuse or senses that abuse is occurring may have no idea how to deal with it. The tool kit describes what to do and, just as importantly, what not to do. For an individual who wants to help, doing the wrong thing could put themselves and victims at increased risk. It also guides a person on how to have a conversation with a victim and how to support them as best as possible.

The tool kits are a wealth of information about relationship violence, but they're only useful if they end up in the right hands. A continued effort is needed by social services and police agencies to keep this document moving forward.

The unique approach of training stylists and bartenders highlights one of the basic principles of community-based policing: it brings the community and the police together to solve a problem.

The Community Champions Tool Kit allows the average person to learn how to intervene safely. It helps change the culture so that more individuals recognize abuse, intervene and start to say that relationship violence is not acceptable in their communities. All of NEVR's toolkits are free and can be downloaded from www.kpu.ca/NEVR.

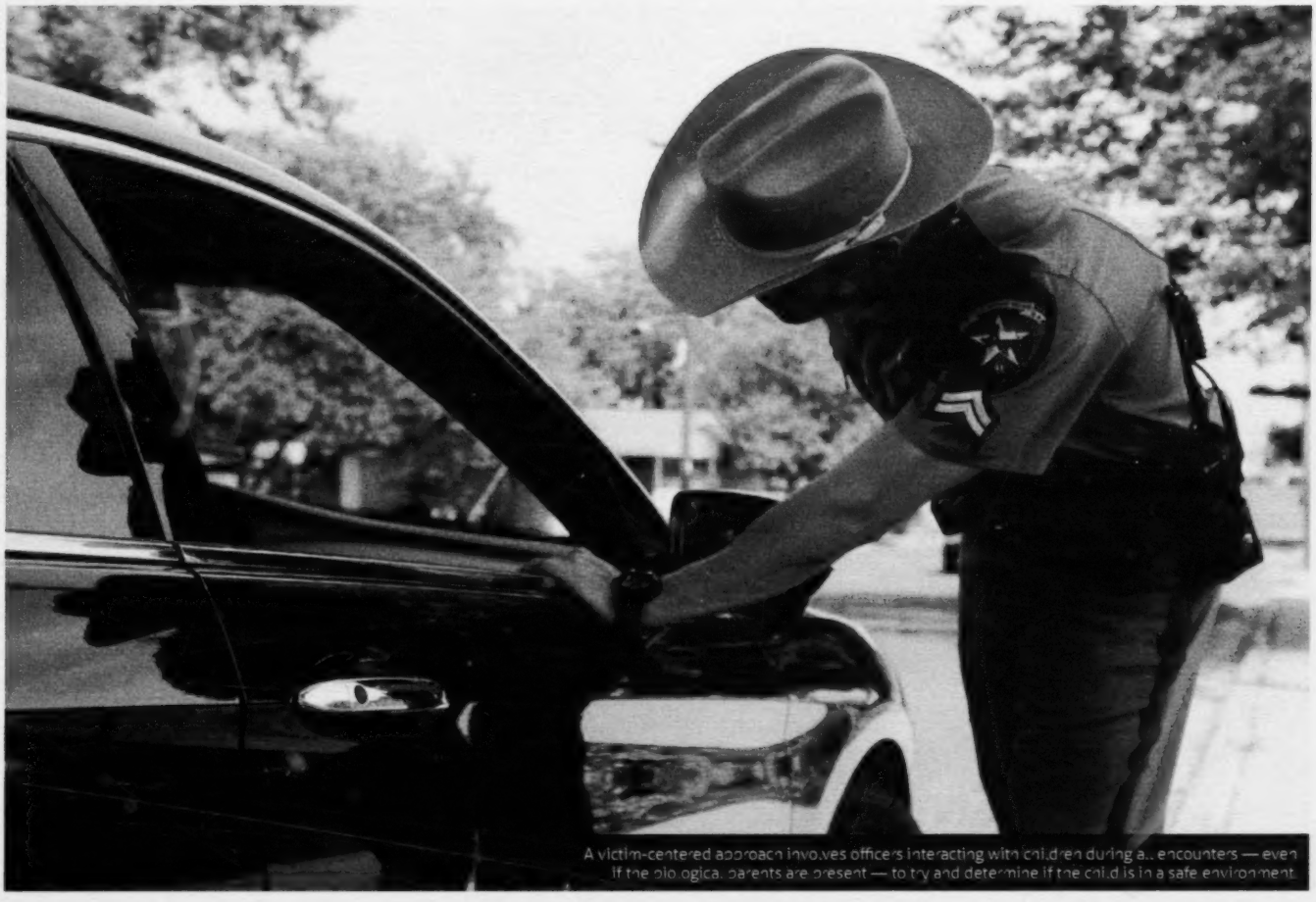
OVERCOMING HESITATION ABOUT HELPING

Often, it seems difficult to talk to people about abuse. The following table addresses some common misconceptions and concerns about speaking up.

POINTS OF CONCERN		POINTS TO CONSIDER
You feel like it's none of your business.	→	It could be a matter of life or death. Violence is everyone's business.
You don't know what to say.	→	Saying you care or are concerned is the best place to start.
You might make things worse.	→	Doing nothing could make things worse.
It's not serious enough to report to police.	→	Police are trained to respond to these situations and can offer more resources.
You are afraid the violence will turn towards you or your family.	→	Speak to the victim alone. Also let police know if you experience threats.
You believe the victim wants to stay in the relationship because he/she keeps going back.	→	The victim may not have had the support they needed.
You are afraid the victim may become angry with you.	→	Maybe, but he/she will know you care about them.
You believe that if the victim wanted help, then they would ask for it.	→	Victims are often too ashamed to ask for help.
You believe domestic violence to be a private matter.	→	It isn't a private matter when someone's getting hurt.

—Adapted from "Help, Hope & Healing" by Government of British Columbia, 2006.

Texas Department of Public Safety



A victim-centered approach involves officers interacting with children during a... encounters — even if the biological parents are present — to try and determine if the child is in a safe environment.

ANYTHING BUT ROUTINE

TRAFFIC STOPS KEY IN STOPPING CHILD ABUSE

By Derek Prestridge, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Rangers, Texas Crimes Against Children Center

Since the 1920s Prohibition era, uniformed and patrol officers have been interdicting or intervening in criminal and dangerous activities. And since then, law enforcement has championed various interdiction efforts through the years — a focus on intoxicated drivers in the '80s, combating drug trafficking in the '90s and, after 2001, zeroing in on homeland security and terrorism. While each new initiative brought with it unique needs for training, awareness and resources, one common theme persisted: these efforts were primarily being carried out by front-line officers.

In 2007, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Highway Patrol Troopers began asking questions about the role of our front-line officers in helping children. For instance, do law enforcement issues related to endangered children necessitate unique training for patrol officers? What does a missing, exploited or at-risk child look like? More specifically, how does one such child appear or behave during a traffic stop, service call or friendly encounter?

Our troopers quickly learned that simple answers to these questions didn't exist. Plus, the answers to those questions were riddled with a series of complex variables. Is the child a victim of abduction? If so, what kind? Did the child run away from home due to abuse or were they lured from home by an offender?

Although these questions and answers were familiar to experts in other fields, this knowledge had never been shared or taught to the very people — front-line officers — who were most likely to encounter an endangered child during their routine duties.

The National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR) of the RCMP reports that in 2015, there were 45,288 missing person reports of children in Canada. With that information in mind, consider this unsettling 2014 data from Statistics Canada:

- 53,647 victims of police-reported violent crime were younger than 18.
- Among child and youth victims of police-reported family violence, three

in five were victimized by a parent.
- Youth aged 12 to 17 had the highest risk of family and non-family related sexual offences (370 per 100,000 youth), which include sexual assaults.

Also in 2014, there were 68,000 commissioned officers in Canada.

As a community, how many of those officers do we want searching for children who are exposed to abuse, neglect and exploitation? If your own child were to go missing, how many of those officers would you want searching for your child?

There's an incredible opportunity to protect society's most vulnerable population — our children — all across the world by properly training and using law enforcement officers.

EMBRACING A SUCCESSFUL APPROACH

The Texas Department of Public Safety employs approximately 3,000 commissioned officers with most assigned to the Texas Highway Patrol. In 2007, DPS reached out to federal agencies, prosecuting attorneys, non-government organizations, victim service professionals and child protection professionals for specialized training typically reserved for detectives or specialized units.

At that time, there were several highly effective initiatives to help identify and work with missing, exploited and at-risk children but few of them focused on training and using patrol officers.

In order to identify and locate missing, exploited and at-risk children, DPS wanted to apply the same successful intervention approach that officers already used to reduce crashes, intoxicated driving offences and drug trafficking. The department established a multi-disciplinary team of patrol officers, investigators, victim service professionals, criminal analysts, child protection professionals and training staff to ultimately create and implement the Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) program.

As they evaluated the need for such training, DPS recognized that in 2008 its Troopers had conducted more than 2.5 million traffic stops but couldn't officially account for any rescued missing, exploited or at-risk children. In fact, this wasn't an isolated phenomenon. As DPS began sharing the IPC program with law enforcement agencies across the United States, Canada, Australia and England in 2012, it discovered that a lack of reporting and tracking of this type of data was systemic through most law enforcement agencies.

For example, 10 different agencies polled were responsible for a combined 3.5 million traffic stops, and they too could not account for the rescue of any missing, exploited or at-risk children. Although these agencies were encountering these children, they were not accounting for them.

This lack of information directly affects an agency's ability to combat the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, as well as their ability to locate those who are missing. Team members also realized that proper education and increased awareness were essential for officers to effectively recognize the indicators that a child may be missing, a victim or at risk.

"THIS CONCEPT INVOLVES OFFICERS INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN DURING ALL ENCOUNTERS — EVEN IF THE BIOLOGICAL PARENTS ARE PRESENT — TO TRY AND DETERMINE IF THE CHILD IS IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT."

POLICE MUST SPEAK TO CHILDREN

Most importantly, the IPC program brought to light a crucial lesson: officers must stop waiting for children to ask for help. There's a dangerous misconception that victims of any crime will instinctively call out for help; however, we now know this isn't accurate. A child may not admit to abuse or seek help due to several factors, including the age and development of the child, threats from the abuser or duration and extent of abuse.

For officers to wait for a child victim to call out, wrongfully places the burden on the child. That's precisely why the IPC program embraces a victim-centered approach when officers encounter a child. This concept involves officers interacting with children during all encounters — even if the biological parents are present — to try and determine if the child is in a safe environment.

Since the beginning of training in 2009, Texas Highway Patrol Troopers have been responsible for more than 200 child rescues and initiating more than 70 investigations of kidnapping, human trafficking, child abuse and sexual assault.

In addition, DPS has partnered with numerous agencies to conduct patrol-driven operations in an effort to find endangered children. They have also partnered with the Behavioral Analysis Unit of the United States Marshals Service to research possible behaviour-pattern indicators of predators who may offend against children.

Fundamentally, the lessons learned through the IPC program are applicable in all communities, provinces, states and countries, and aren't limited by borders or jurisdictions. In 2012, the Texas DPS began travelling to Canada to share what it has learned. It first worked with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and then returned several times, ultimately working with the RCMP.

"Through the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's work with victims, we know that they often don't ask for help for a variety of reasons. The victim-centered approach of the IPC program is an absolute best practice, and there's no doubt that training officers to uncover high-risk situations like this will save children's lives," said Christy Dzikowicz, Director of the Child Safety and Family Advocacy Division, Canadian Centre for Child Protection. "We are incredibly proud to be working with the DPS to bring this information to Canada."

DPS and Canadian law enforcement continue to work together to share information and training to improve the skills of officers for when they encounter these endangered children. DPS is proud of this premier program and committed to sharing it with as many police officers as possible.

The effort to protect children must be collaborative and expand beyond jurisdictions. There's no doubt that with the right training and information, law enforcement agencies at all levels can exponentially increase their ability to save countless children and apprehend the deplorable criminals who would do them harm. We urge any agency that has never before had access to this type of training to actively pursue it — not only to better prepare and train first-line officers but, most importantly, to protect children in all communities.

YOUNG VICTIMS

BEST APPROACHES FOR INTERVIEWING CHILDREN

By Cst. Michael Simpson, Special Response Unit, Yukon, RCMP

One of the more difficult calls for service that a police officer can make is responding to a situation in which a child is the victim of, or the witness to, a criminal matter.

Unfortunately in situations such as violence in relationships (VIR), children are involved all too frequently. Either they saw the violence or experienced it first-hand. In child sexual abuse investigations, the child is often the only one able to provide information, aside from the offender.

As a result, it may be necessary for a police officer to interview a child. In a number of regions, it's mandated for a police officer to speak to a child while conducting a VIR investigation. However, if there's one segment of the population that many officers are reluctant to speak to, it's children.

In the past, interviewing children was considered impossible, unnecessary and not useful. The common view was that children were unable to provide truthful or reliable information. However, in the last number of years, in both the criminal justice world as well as academia, these views have been changing. In the proper circumstances, children can provide information that is both valid and reliable.

Care must be taken in how the child is interviewed. The interviewer carries enormous responsibility in such cases, as he or she can single-handedly determine the probability of disclosure. Some improper techniques, such as the use of reinforcements (punishments and rewards), using social influence (telling the child what others have said), asking suggestive or leading questions (introducing information that the child has not disclosed), and removing the child from direct experience (asking what might have happened) can all lead to negative consequences.

CHILD INTERVIEWING APPROACHES

Gone are the days when investigators would use "just the facts" and question-and-answer format with children. There have been a number of structured techniques developed, such as the Step-Wise Interview and the NICHD Protocol, to assist in interviewing children. Many police agencies now offer training in one of these models or other similar approaches.

The goals of these approaches are similar: they aim to minimize any negative effects on the child, increase the information gained and decrease any possible negative outcomes, as discussed above.

The NICHD Protocol begins with an introduction, a truth–lie discussion and establishing ground rules for the interview. Next, the interviewer focuses on building rapport and asks the child to describe a neutral event. The interviewer then transitions into the abuse-specific questioning by asking the child to describe why he or she is being interviewed.

The Step-Wise model is similar and focuses on a number of flexible, fluid steps:

- Preparation
- Introduction
- Building rapport
- Introducing the topic
- Encouraging narrative discussion
- Enhancement of narrative
- Conclusion

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW

A key step is to prepare for the child interview. There's often pressure to conduct these interviews quickly. However, any effort to learn as much as possible about the incident itself and the child before the interview begins will be helpful. For instance, talking to parents, relatives and teachers (if appropriate) can provide information on the child's likes and dislikes, their attention span, and other information that can be used to fill any gaps during the interview.

An investigator will want to consider when and where the interview occurs. Always try to determine a time when the child is most able or willing to talk, and find a place that provides privacy and where they may be most comfortable to talk (try to avoid the place where the incident occurred). As long as the interview can be video recorded, this can be done for example at the detachment, at the child and family services or child advocacy centre offices or at a school. Take care to keep the room as free from distractions as possible.

How young is too young for a child to participate? Children under two years would be considered too young, as they haven't gained the necessary cognitive or verbal skills. Children older than two years need to be individually assessed.

The next step is to decide who should be in the interview room. Perhaps the best approach is to have as few people present as possible, although there are times when it's necessary to have a support person for the child (such as a parent) and other professionals (such as a child protection worker).

HOW TO BEGIN

When the interview begins, the key is to put the child at ease. Always remember to use language that's age appropriate. Emphasize to the child that they are not in trouble. The concept of the 'safe room' can be discussed — the child can talk about anything they want and will not get into trouble.

Building rapport with the child is a key component. The interviewer can begin to get to know the child by talking about school, sports or hobbies. This is more than just having a conversation. The interviewer should already be encouraging the child to give detailed responses called narrative descriptions. This will help the child provide more details to open-ended prompts later in the interview. The interviewer can also begin to assess the child's level of comfort, verbal abilities and memory recall. The truth-versus-lie discussion can take place during this stage.

The discussion should then begin to focus on why the child is being interviewed. This is perhaps the most difficult aspect of these types of the interviews because the interviewer will want to focus on the incident or issue without actually asking directly about it. For example, if the incident occurred on a particular day, ask the child to discuss their day from the moment of waking up onwards.

The hope is that the child — of their own accord — will begin to talk about the matter. A free narrative occurs when the child is encouraged to provide an account of the event or situation in their own words, at their own

A number of techniques, including the use of drawings, can help a child discuss a difficult topic and stay focused during an interview.

pace and without interruption. Ideally this will increase the information that's shared and minimize suggestibility. Use open-ended questions that elicit as much information from the child without any direction from the interviewer. For example, "You mentioned 'x', tell me everything about 'x'."

TECHNIQUES FOR TALKING TO CHILDREN

As the interview progresses, different strategies or techniques can be used to elicit information and discussion.

- *Body diagrams.* These are particularly useful in sexual abuse matters. Be careful with the diagram, as some can over-represent the genitals.

- *Drawings.* One suggestion would be for the *interviewer* to make the diagrams based on what the child is saying. This helps keep the child's focus and attention.

- *Themes.* Use a set of questions focused on one topic or area. This can be particularly useful when it's difficult getting the child onto the topic. An example would be the discipline theme. "Tell me about the rules in your house... You said that one rule was 'x', what happens when you do not follow 'x'." Hopefully, as the interview progresses, the child will be able to discuss the key matter. At this stage, the goal will be to understand and clarify the situation.

- *Using the five Ws* (who, what, where, why, when and how). These types of questions will have a place at this stage. But avoid using questions that force the child to answer in a particular way, such as 'Was the car black or red?'

As the interview progresses, be conscious of time. Anyone who has children or has worked with children knows that their attention span is limited. Always assess how the young person is doing and determine how long the interview should continue.

Should there be multiple meetings with the child? If further interviews are done with care and focus, the answer is yes. If possible, additional interviews should be focused on specific issues or have a particular purpose. In fact, meeting multiple times may be the only way to gain a certain level of trust and rapport with the child.

In one instance, I was preparing to speak to a six-year-old girl who had always been told not to talk to authority figures. I scheduled three meetings in which the focus was solely on rapport building and taking an interest in the child's life. Only on the fourth meeting did she begin to open up about the issues at hand.

Child interviewing can be challenging and unpredictable. The interviewer needs to be patient and flexible. As with any skill, practice is the key to developing the confidence and knowledge to succeed. The old view that children be seen and not heard, no longer applies. Children can be reliable witnesses with a wealth of information to share.

GENTLE PRESSURE, APPLIED RELENTLESSLY

FAMILY VIOLENCE: CHANGING ATTITUDES, BETTER ENFORCEMENT

Mark Wynn spent 21 years with the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department, where he worked as a lieutenant in the Domestic Violence Division and a member of the SWAT Team. He has since travelled the world as an instructor, lecturer and advocate on the subject of family violence. During his career, Wynn helped create legislation to protect women from stalking and violence, and pushed for greater understanding of the dynamics inherent to family violence. He spoke to Eric Stewart about his own experiences with abuse and shared information and techniques learned from a life working in the field.

COULD YOU SHARE THE STORY OF YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE?

My stepfather was a crop-duster. He was this West Texas tough guy — six-foot-two, 220 pounds — and an abuser. We didn't know it until after my mother married him. This guy was brutal, he hospitalized my mother several times, beat her into miscarriages twice, broke bones, caused concussions, and he was a police fighter on top of everything else. Even though he would fight the police, he was never arrested for domestic violence because there was no such thing in the criminal code in those years, and there were no shelters, so we were pretty much on our own. My brother and I, when we were 12 and seven, tried to kill him by poisoning his drink with bug spray. Thank God he didn't die — he drank it all, but he was an alcoholic and it didn't hurt him.

As a kid, I told myself I was going to do something about domestic violence, and when I came of age I got into policing and haven't stopped since. There's a lot of survivors in policing. I meet cops all the time who walk up to me after training and tell me they know what I've been through — it's hard to find someone who hasn't been impacted by violence of the family.

ARE THERE ANY COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT FAMILY VIOLENCE?

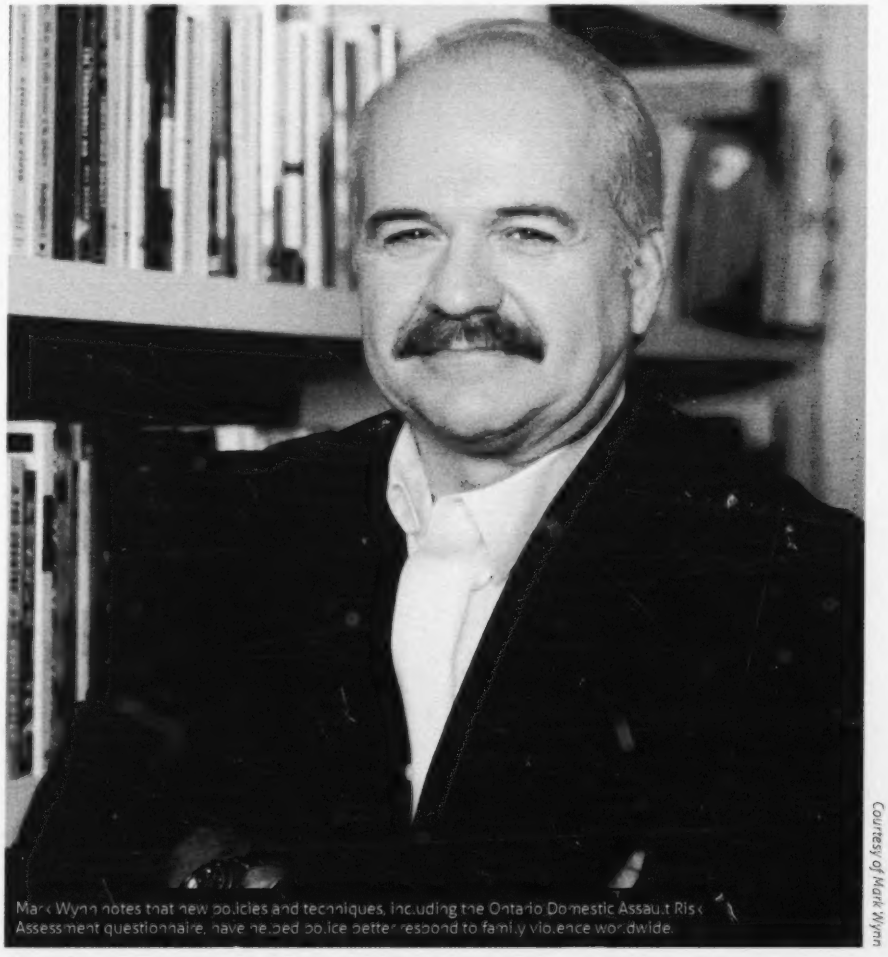
I'd say that there's still a misunderstanding about the behaviour of the victim. You see the reluctance, what looks like acceptance of abuse, the tortured relationship that they live in — domestic abusers don't walk up to you, ask you out, and then hit you on the face — it's so much more complex. When an officer looks at a victim, they know the victim is in danger, but if you're in that kind of relationship, believing is not an event. It's a process. You, the officer, have to be part of that process.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU SEE THAT'S COMMON ACROSS FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFENDERS?

There's a common characteristic that we see in offenders, and it's not about stress, race, money, drugs, alcohol — it's about a choice. And that choice is made, in about 80 per cent of cases, based on learned behaviour. There's been some interesting studies on brain development in children, showing that your brain develops differently when you're exposed to violence as a child, and not when you're five years old, when you're five months old. Those children who are exposed as infants have a higher propensity to commit violence as juveniles and adults. So I spend a lot of time connecting these things for officers, letting them see how violence creates more violence — and why it's so important that children aren't exposed to violence.

WHY IS FAMILY VIOLENCE SUCH A DIFFICULT CRIME TO POLICE?

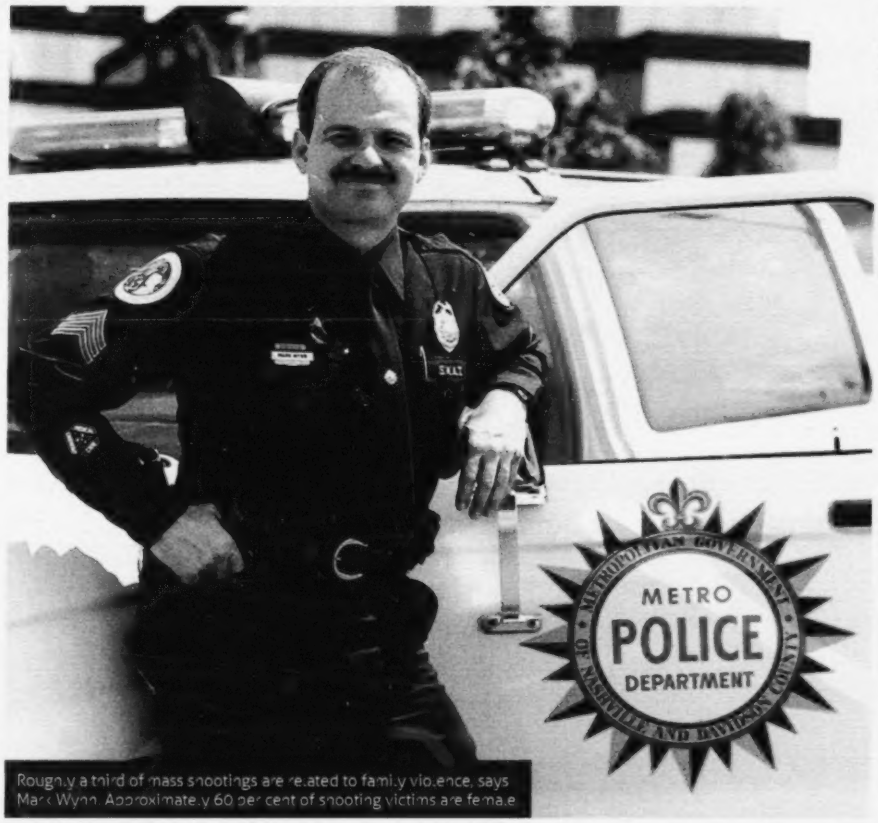
I talk to officers all over the world, and it's always the same — we know we've got a



Mark Wynn notes that new policies and techniques, including the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment questionnaire, have helped police better respond to family violence worldwide.

Courtesy of Mark Wynn

problem, we're working with advocacy groups, we're trying to improve — it's always been a struggle with this kind of crime. You have these cases where the victim is living with the offender, and where there's so much reluctance to come forward because of all kinds of internal and external pressures — it's an incredibly tricky situation. Often, you have domestic violence co-occurring with sexual assault and other crimes. I think as societal attitudes change and we encourage victims to come forward, and as police attitudes and policies modernize, you'll see things improve.



Courtesy Mark Wynn

Roughly a third of mass shootings are related to family violence, says Mark Wynn. Approximately 60 percent of shooting victims are female

HOW HAS POLICING FAMILY VIOLENCE CHANGED SINCE YOU BEGAN YOUR CAREER?

I starting policing in 1977. Back then, I was trained that the police response to domestic violence was mediation, not arrests. That was the standard across the U.S. and other Western countries. We didn't quite understand what we were dealing with.

Domestic violence is a crime of power and control, and I think we're finally starting to look at it differently. In the U.S., we passed the *Violence Against Women Act*, which put money into research and training for law enforcement. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has spent the last 14 years travelling all over the States, training police executives on the history of domestic violence, helping them write policy about domestic violence, trafficking, sexual assault. There's new legislation in other countries, and attitudes are starting to change. It's been transformative.

Twenty years ago, you wouldn't have been able to have this conversation at all. I've been training cops since 1982, and I've heard every excuse, every reason — but I'm a firm believer that gentle pressure, applied relentlessly, will get you where you need to go.

COULD YOU TALK ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY VIOLENCE AND POLICE KILLINGS?

During all those years that we weren't policing domestic violence correctly, domestic offenders were killing police. We never connected one to the other — but we understand now that when we take control away from the offender, they fight back with deadly force. The first officer to die in the line of duty in Nashville, where I started my career, died responding to a domestic violence call. If you're looking at the dynamic of domestic violence, you need to look yourself in the mirror as an officer because you could be at as much risk as the victim when you respond to these calls. These killings, they don't come from spontaneous outrage — it's calculated. Offenders kill cops. These are people who believe we've taken something away from them that they're entitled to, and some of these offenders will use deadly force to get it back.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR OFFICERS DEALING WITH THESE CASES IN THE FIELD?

A lot of these offenders use the same tactics on police that they use on the victim. It's often described as the power and control wheel. We know that the offender will isolate the victim from help — they'll isolate officers from the victim. They intimidate and coerce the victim, they'll intimidate and coerce the officer. They'll use the children against the victim and against the officer. They'll use male privilege on the victim and the officer — "That's my wife, I can do what I want." They'll kill the victim, and they'll kill the officer.

When you investigate these cases, watch what the suspect does to you — that's what they're doing to victims. Notice when they start on you in a defensive manner, that's a pretty good clue. How they respond to the officer should be documented in the report for when the case is prosecuted. Often, as officers, we focus on the he-said-she-said, and don't note down how the offender responds to us, which I think is important information.

I want officers to be safe. Every time they knock on someone's doorstep, they're risking their lives for someone they don't even know. I want them to have as much information as possible before they knock on the door. And I want officers, if they can, to walk around in the shoes of the victim for a minute, to understand and make sense of the victim's mindset. Empathy is one of your best tools.

This interview has been edited and condensed for space and clarity.

HONOUR-BASED VIOLENCE

COMPLEX ISSUE NEEDS GREATER AWARENESS

By C/Supt. Shahin Mehdizadeh, District Officer, Eastern Alberta District, RCMP

Honour-Based Violence (HBV) is a common, yet largely invisible crime in Canada. Such crimes impact innocent victims and, unfortunately, the police often don't get engaged until victims have suffered significant injuries or lost their lives.

The 2009 Shafia quadruple homicide in Kingston, Ont. provided some needed publicity on the concept of HBV or honour killings, and other related offences such as forced marriages and female genital mutilation. As a result, different agencies, including the global policing community, have recognized the need not only to improve their knowledge of the issue but also their approach to the prevention and investigation of such incidents.

Recent Statistics Canada reports indicate that Canada is home to almost seven million immigrants. This is the fastest growing sector of our population. Cultural diversity makes a country strong but the police and other partner agencies face challenges when dealing with many communities.

CHALLENGES FOR POLICE

There are a wide range of reasons why members of certain cultural groups may not be inclined to make reports to the police. Such under-reporting of crimes against persons pose a significant challenge to the law enforcement community as it doesn't allow them or other partner agencies to provide adequate protection for the victims. There are several reasons why such crimes might not be reported:

- Strained relationships and lack of trust between the community and the police (or other agencies)
- Fear of negative stigma
- Linguistic barriers
- Immigration concerns
- Financial dependence on family members
- Fear of escalating violence by family and community members
- Love for family members (despite the abuse)

Another challenge is the lack of knowledge and understanding of HBV. This very complex topic deals with the how individuals who commit such crimes justify their actions through their own interpreted ideologies and beliefs.

WHAT HONOUR?

The term honour-based violence is generally defined as criminal conduct that has been motivated because the perpetrator perceived the crime was necessary or acceptable to protect or defend the honour of the family or the community.

HBV isn't a legal term and many don't endorse using honour and violence in the same sentence. But the term continues to be used to put context into the motive for the crime.

In simple terms, these crimes are committed against vulnerable, innocent victims to force them into doing what is morally right based on the perpetrator's interpretation of acceptable values and practices. Culture and religion are often used as excuses to commit acts of violence. However, no culture or religion endorses such behaviour.

The victims of honour-based violence and forced marriage are predominantly women and girls but men and boys can be victims as well.

One key challenge with such investigations is that the crimes are committed by close family members. It's very difficult to obtain any evidence because family members — including the victims themselves — are rarely willing to provide damaging evidence against someone close to them.

Police officers must be able to identify threats or risks and take the appropriate steps to properly investigate. These investigations may require assistance from subject matter experts either within the police force of jurisdiction or elsewhere.

BE AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITIES

The manner in which a suspected victim is

When honour-based violence is suspected, a subject matter expert can provide guidance so that investigators can gather the best evidence and provide safety to the victims.

interviewed, the location of the interview, who conducts the interview and ensuring that family members aren't present during an interview are critical to having some success in getting the story and continuing with the investigation.

For example, when police have faced communication barriers with immigrants, the easy road has been to have another family member provide assistance when interviewing victims. At times, police officers have questioned a potential victim in the presence of other family members. But when dealing with HBV incidents, this falls on the "do not do" list.

A subject matter expert can provide suggestions or guidance so that investigators can gather the best evidence and provide safety to the victims. If this isn't done right, the consequences to the victims can be grave.

If attempts to secure charges are successful, the more important task is to conduct a comprehensive security plan and risk assessment for the victim. For example, in the case of a marriage in which a female provides evidence against her husband, investigators must factor the threat against her from her husband, her husband's family, and at times her own family and the community. Such disclosures can be seen as a sign of betrayal that brings shame to the entire family and cultural group.

The same goes for a child victim who reaches out to police to report crimes at home (either against them or another family member). Investigators need to assess risks from different angles and work with other partners to ensure the victim's safety.

Canada has gained a reputation as one of the best places in the world to live. That attraction is the reason many immigrants come to this country (me included). Police have a duty to ensure they provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy their lives here. While it's encouraging that in the past few years several initiatives have promoted more awareness of this topic, more needs to be done.

THE WAY FORWARD

A better outreach program for immigrant populations can help build trusting relationships between police and these communities. The policing world in Canada is actively looking at opportunities to recruit men and women from different groups to better represent the diverse Canadian population within their police forces. A better understanding of different cultural groups and religions is critical for police officers to better serve their communities. Without a trusting relationship, crimes that are honour based will never be reported.

Engaging with different cultural groups is also critical. When more awareness is provided to these groups, there will be greater effort in addressing honour-based violence from within. This can be done by partnering with different ethnic women's groups, Status of Women, Immigration and Multiculturalism, and many others.

A more collaborative model of addressing the issues of honour-based violence and forced marriage is essential. One agency can't do it all. Education and awareness for newcomers is also important as they need to know their rights in their new home, and where they can get help and protection.

Ensuring a bias-free service to every citizen regardless of their culture, religion and colour of skin is critical. The slightest indication of bias and stereotyping damages trust in police.

Finally, police officers must be equipped with the right tools and knowledge to deal with such crimes.

The RCMP has already developed a basic online course and other police departments in Canada have developed training to increase general awareness on this topic. More training is needed for front-line officers and more intensive training is needed to develop a larger pool of subject matter experts.

The sad reality is that honour-based crimes occur and many individuals are victimized. The policing community in Canada has an opportunity to develop more initiatives through education, collaboration and outreach to move forward on this front.

WEBINAR EDUCATES ON HONOUR-BASED VIOLENCE

By Eric Stewart

This fall, police and prosecutors from across Canada were invited to watch a webinar on the subject of honour-based violence. The webinar, "Training on underage and forced marriages, 'honour' based violence and female genital mutilation/cutting for law enforcement and prosecutors," aimed to illuminate the difficult and under-reported world of honour-based violence.

Three speakers were featured — Justice Department counsel Hoori Hamboyan, S/Sgt. Isobel Granger of the Ottawa Police Service and Crown prosecutor Meaghan Cunningham. They aimed to weigh in on issues specific to honour-based violence and give officers a better idea of how to approach these kinds of cases.

"One of our objectives is to undo some of the stereotypes about honour-based violence and give a sense of what the situation might actually look like," says Hamboyan. "It could go from something that doesn't look very serious to lethal very quickly. We focus a lot on the cultural competency for police officers to be able to work with minority communities, so there there's less judgement, less stereotyping and more openness so people can come forward and seek help."

Hamboyan notes that honour-based violence can present unique challenges to those investigating and prosecuting. These cases often involve multiple perpetrators and authority figures from outside the family or even country, as well as cultural values that may be unfamiliar to the officers investigating.

The webinar discussed the entire spectrum of honour-based violence and cruelty — from forced marriage to female genital mutilation. Officers and prosecutors from across the country were invited to tune in to the two-hour session, which was presented in English with a simultaneous French translation.

STOLEN GOLDEN YEARS

CALGARY POLICE TARGET ELDER ABUSE

By Sgt. Avril Martin, Elder Abuse Response Team, Calgary Police Service

An 86-year-old man is physically and financially abused by his son.

A 58-year-old man previously charged with assault and uttering threats towards his elderly mother, moves into her basement and pressures her for money.

A woman, aged 79, with a long history of unreported physical and emotional violence by her 82-year-old husband, reports a recent incident of striking, shaking and threats by him.

These are but a few cases reported to Calgary's Elder Abuse Response Team (EART) in the past year.

Established in 2011, EART is a partnership between the Calgary Police Service, Carya (Formerly Calgary Family Services) and Kerby Centre. Kerby Centre provides direct referrals to EART while social workers from Carya and sworn members from the Calgary Police Service provide the front-line response to elder abuse. About 80 per cent of referrals come directly through police calls for service.

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family completed a comprehensive evaluation of the fully funded EART pilot project between 2011 and 2014. The pilot project was funded by the Safe Communities Innovation Fund. Today, EART is fully operational.

The goal of the team is to reduce the victimization of older adults by providing a multidisciplinary continuum of services and supports. EART provides direct services to victims aged 65 and over who live in the City of Calgary, are in a trusting relationship with the abuser (spouses, family members, grandchildren, adult children, caregivers) and where it's suspected that a criminal offence has or may be perpetrated against the older adult by the abuser.

A criminal offence can include physical or sexual abuse, neglect, financial abuse/fraud or psychological abuse. For EART, positions of trust in elder abuse exclude unknown offender relationships.

COMPLEX FAMILY DYNAMICS

There are many complexities and family dynamics involved in these cases including older adults facing issues with isolation, immobility, cognitive ability, lack of social supports and dependency on others. The Calgary Police Service believes that a strong co-ordinated community response is required to increase awareness, and prevent and respond to these crimes.

During the pilot project, data was collected on the types of abuse reported at intake. Verbal abuse was the most common followed by financial abuse and emotional abuse. More than two-thirds of the older adult victims lived with their alleged abuser and the most common alleged abusers were adult children followed by spouses or partners.

EART investigates files that have a criminal component. The team consists of two police officers working in tandem with two social workers, and an additional two police officers who mainly investigate financial files that don't require social work expertise or resources. If the file doesn't meet the criminal threshold, then it's referred to community partners for follow-up, support and resources.

The team sees a broad range of cases involving different forms of elder abuse, sometimes in combination.

Financial abuse: In February 2015, the team investigated a file involving a 62-year-old man who suffered from post-polio health challenges and a trusted friend, who was 63. The victim was confined to a wheelchair and the friend offered to run errands for him. He gave his friend permission to use his credit and debit cards for groceries and to pay for gas in exchange for running the errands but not to make any other purchases. He noticed

Members of the Calgary Police Service pose with members of the public during a gathering on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. One in five Canadians know an older adult suffering abuse.

Calgary Police Service

that several unauthorized transactions on the credit and debit cards were being made totalling more than $28,000.

The investigation led to production orders for financial records, videos and stills of the transactions and a criminal charge of theft over $ 5,000. EART liaised with Homecare and Transition Services to expedite moving the victim to a care facility, met with the family to assist with Power of Attorney applications, and secured the victims remaining funds. The accused pled guilty during court proceedings and received a conditional sentence order.

Physical and financial abuse: In June 2015, EART investigated the case of an 86-year-old man being physically and financially abused by his son. Members of the team transported the victim to a shelter and obtained an emergency protection order.

As the son was still at large, the team put out warrants for his arrest. The son broke back into the home, breaching the emergency protection order, and assaulted his father again, this time requiring the father to be hospitalized. EART assisted with obtaining a capacity assessment for the victim by liaising with physicians at the hospital.

As there was no one suitable or willing to take on the guardianship of the victim, EART made a referral to the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee who took over his guardianship.

Financial abuse: In August 2015, the team learned of a 90-year-old man being financially abused by a 50-year-old trusted friend where over $160,000 had been spent by the suspect without the victim's knowledge or consent. This investigation involved authoring and being granted several production orders, interviewing numerous people, and consulting with Crown. This investigation is ongoing.

Financial abuse: In September 2015, EART investigated a 34-year-old tenant who reportedly stole cheques from his elderly landlord. The tenant was charged with uttering a forged document and received conditions of no contact — direct or indirect — with the landlord. EART continued to monitor the file and a routine check on the landlord's welfare located the accused hiding in a storage space.

EART arrested and charged the offender with two counts of breaching a probation order. The team helped the 74-year-old with a social admission to hospital and advocated for housing, cognitive assessments and family education regarding a Personal Directive and a Power of Attorney. The intervention resulted in the older adult being able to thrive in a supportive environment and return home to live safely in the community.

Physical and financial abuse: In the same month, EART investigated a file involving a 79-year-old woman and her son. The son, 58, was previously charged with assault and uttering threats toward her. Shortly after, the victim's daughter contacted the team to inform them that the son was living in the mother's basement, contrary to his recognizance, and was pressuring her for money. EART arrested the son for breach of his bond and removed another unwanted person from the basement at the request of the mother. She currently lives in a healthy, abuse-free environment supported by family and friends.

Physical and psychological abuse: EART investigated a domestic abuse file involving an 85-year-old man and his 79-year-old wife. There was a long history of unreported physical and emotional domestic violence and a recent incident disclosed to police of the offender striking, shaking and threatening the victim.

An accusatory interview resulted in admissions of guilt and two criminal charges. The elder abuse team continued to support the victim as she moved from a shelter to government-subsidized seniors housing where she's currently living — happy and free from domestic violence.

CONCLUSION

With an estimated 9,000 older adults affected by elder abuse in Calgary each year, EART is much needed.

Aside from investigating these serious crimes, the team participates in outreach events with their community partners to help build awareness of elder abuse, teach seniors how to protect themselves against maltreatment and fraud, and provide information about community resources.

POLICE ACADEMY FOR SENIORS

By Deidre Seiden

When it comes to the safety of seniors in Manitoba, the RCMP and the Manitoba Association of Senior Centres (MASC) are putting the focus on prevention. And they're doing this through a fun, innovative program they designed called the Police Academy: Older Adult Division.

It deals with topics including elder abuse, planning for the future, frauds and scams, personal safety and medication safety.

"One of the most important topics is elder abuse," says Connie Newman, the executive director of MASC. "We all think we know everything, but life is changing fast as we get older, we don't know everything. And when you look at elder abuse, especially financial abuse, many don't realize it's often family doing the abusing."

Newman says the police academy is a place to start having those conversations around what elder abuse and other safety issues really look like so that people have the knowledge to watch for it and possibly prevent it.

She's spoken with seniors who've been victims of a crime and have lost money and felt humiliated as a result. And she's spoken with police academy graduates who said when they were in similar situations, they knew what to do because of what they learned.

Graduates from the academy are encouraged to become mentors and share the information.

"Now all of sudden we have that many more messengers going out and sharing that message with friends, families and neighbours," says Sgt. Rob Lockhart with the RCMP's Winnipeg Crime Prevention Services. "It starts a great conversation."

The six-week program has been educating older adults on safety and security issues at least five times a year since it was created in 2009. Many sessions are led and facilitated by the RCMP, local police and experts in the community.

HEALTHY LOVE

REACHING OUT TO YOUTH TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

By Eric Stewart

Dating is hard, doubly so when you're a teenager. Volatile emotions and inexperience can be a toxic mix — sometimes leading to unhealthy or even abusive relationships.

But new initiatives from the RCMP and other organizations across Canada are working to reach out to teens, helping to open their eyes to the dangers of unhealthy and violent relationships.

REVEALING A REVOLUTION

Det. Tonya Dupuis had a problem. It was 2014, and the Abbotsford, B.C., Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit had been tasked with educating local schools about teen relationship violence. Dupuis, who pioneered the unit in 2009, now found herself frustrated by a lack of educational resources to use during their workshops.

"We struggled to find materials that could address young relationships," says Dupuis. "Because family violence is such a heavy topic, people are sometimes afraid to talk about these issues. We wanted to tackle it head on."

She hit upon the idea of creating a modern teaching video, one that would unflinchingly depict the realities of a controlling and abusive relationship. Dupuis, with the support of her chief, Bob Rich, worked with a local production company to bring the short film — titled *Reveal'ution* — to life.

The film follows a toxic teenage relationship, showing how it affects everyone from the victim of abuse to her friends to the watching bystanders. It's a raw and intimate look at an abusive relationship, and also a rallying cry to the audience — asking them to step up and take a stand.

"It's surprising a lot of the kids," says Dupuis. "There's a lot of head nods from the audience. They can see the nexus between what we're talking about and what they're living. They are relating to it, and that's the scary part."

ABORIGINAL OUTREACH

Videos aren't the only method of outreach being used to help address violence in relationships. The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres have spent the last five years growing their own program — Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin (in English, I Am A Kind Man).

The program addresses violence in indigenous communities, providing individualized training, counselling and activities to more than 150 men in the last year alone.

"When I've gone out to the communities, the majority will tell me that they themselves witnessed violence against their caregiver as children," says Chris Taylor, a trainer with the I Am A Kind Man program. "They'll tell me that it's rare they had a healthy male role model, let alone a father. While engaging these men, we're also finding some of the healthy men in the communities and raising them up as role models."

Being exposed to violence as a child massively increases the likelihood of being involved in violence as an adult, either as a victim or perpetrator. I Am A Kind Man aims to create a network of healthy, supportive men — helping to breaking the cycle of violence that has continued for generations in many communities.

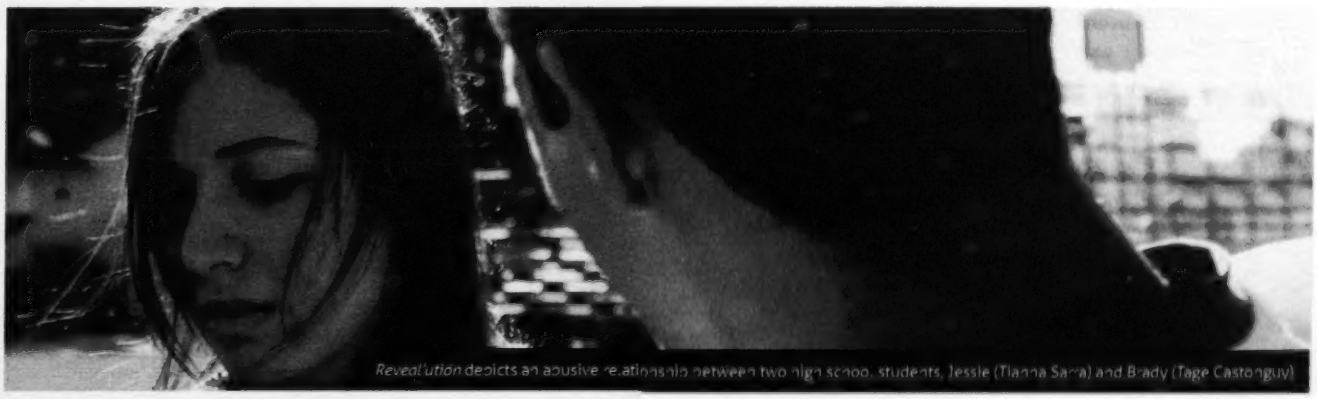
"Many of the program's graduates provide peer leadership and support to some of the younger men," says Taylor. "These are often the guys who everyone was afraid of in the community, and they've clearly made positive changes in their lives. They're looked up to by the younger people."

Strong community support and healthy role models can provide continuous outreach and education, showing young people what a positive relationship looks like — and encouraging them to avoid dangerous choices.

STARTING YOUNG

As discussing family violence becomes less stigmatized, more agencies are taking notice of the potential dangers present in young relationships. The RCMP has launched several campaigns aimed at teens, including the #healthylove social media program and RCMPTalks on relationship violence. Non-profits, police departments and more are making their own efforts to reach the difficult-but-important teen demographic.

"As law enforcement, we need to be not afraid to talk dating violence," says Dupuis. "We need to get in at a younger age. These relationships are happening, they're starting at a much younger age, and I think we all — in all the agencies — need to start talking about these things sooner. Awareness and prevention are so important."



Abbotsford Police Department

Reveal'ution depicts an abusive relationship between two high school students, Jessie (Tianna Sara) and Brady (Tage Castonguy)

just THE FACTS

TAX EVASION

Since nearly 3,000 BC, taxation has been an integral part of civilization. Ancient Egyptian pharaohs would collect their dues in the form of labour, and medieval kings in the form of agricultural produce. Since then, reluctant taxpayers have found ways to avoid and evade paying their taxes. Usually punishable by law, tax evasion is estimated to cost governments worldwide billions of dollars in unpaid revenue.

Tax evasion is the act of using illegal means to avoid paying taxes, including underreporting income, inflating deductions or hiding money. This is a crime punishable by law in many countries, including Canada.

Tax avoidance, however, is the act of minimizing taxes legally. While practices such as using offshore bank accounts are within the letter of law, they often contradict the object of the law, and many governments are working to stop it.

In 2016, the Canadian government invested $444 million to enhance the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) ability to detect, audit and prosecute tax evasion. This is expected to bring in $2.6 billion in new tax revenue over the next five years.

It's legal for Canadians to hold accounts offshore in other countries for the purposes of estate management or conducting business. But James Henry, an economist and fellow at Columbia University and Yale, says in a Toronto Star article, "Just because it's legal doesn't make it right. Slavery was legal. Child labour was legal. There's no social purpose whatsoever."

Canadians have declared $199 billion in offshore tax haven investments around the world, according to Statistics Canada. But, many experts say that figure is a small fraction of the Canadian offshore wealth that goes undeclared, likely resulting in billions of dollars of lost tax revenue.

There were 75,836 cases of tax fraud in the U.S in 2014. Of those cases, more than 700 people were sentenced, with a median tax collection of $167,000 per person.

The majority of those tax evasion offenders had no criminal history, and averaged 50 years old at the time of sentencing.

In the U.S., if you report your company for tax evasion, you can earn 30 per cent of the amount collected as part of the Internal Revenue Service's Whistleblower Informant Award program.

According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the U.S. 84 per cent of people think it's "not at all" acceptable to cheat on taxes.

According to a study publishe University of Wisconsin, up to cent of income in the U.S. is not properly to the IRS, resulting in approximately $500 billion per

The same study found that the ra evasion increases with the inc rate, unemployment rate, per ca and dissatisfaction with the gove Offshore money transfers can ha consequences than lost tax rev terrorist financing, money lau and corruption are other commo cussions.

According to the European Com an estimated one trillion euros each year due to tax fraud and ev the European Union.

Mossack Fonesca, a Panama law firm, is the latest enterpris spotlight for tax evasion. As on world's leading incorporators o companies" — fake companies transfer or store money — the often used to help foreigners taxes.

The recently leaked Panama which contain thousands of M Fonesca's internal records, reve network of more than 200,000 o companies tied to people in mo 200 countries. The list includes leaders, billionaires and celebriti Britain, the U.S., Iceland and b many of whom are now under inv tion for tax evasion.

The Organization for Economic dination and Development estab a new global standard on Aut Exchange of Information (AEO reduces the possibility for tax e The new guidelines come into ef Canada in 2017, and permit the s of financial information of forei count holders with their home cou

— Compiled by Amelia Th

STOPPING CRIME — BY THE NUMBERS

SASKATOON POLICE PARTNER WITH MATHEMATICIANS TO PREVENT CRIME

By Amelia Thatcher

An eight-year-old boy goes missing in Saskatoon, Sask. Investigators scramble for leads — the child could be anywhere. Best case scenario: he's run away and will come home soon. Worst case scenario: he's been abducted.

So how do police know where to look? With the help of a new computer lab, the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) is hoping to predict, prevent and find missing children — using numbers.

"I'm not a mathematician, I don't understand algorithms," says SPS Deputy Chief Jeff Bent, who has been a police officer for more than 30 years. "But we have to start recognizing the potential of predictive analytics for solving police problems and crime."

That's why the SPS, along with the provincial Ministry of Justice, employed the help of computer scientists and mathematicians from the University of Saskatchewan. The team of researchers will tackle police problems that are rooted in data, to try to prevent crimes before they happen. Their first project will be finding missing children, as part of the Missing Persons Project.

"Some of these kids are going to end up in the sex trade, and that goes across borders and municipalities," says Brian Rector, executive director, Ministry of Justice. "To be able to pull all that data together — it could save lives."

Starting this year, the Saskatoon Police Predictive Analytics Lab (SPPAL) will take data provided by the RCMP, municipal police services in Saskatchewan and child services to map out the risk factors, trends and behaviour patterns of the province's missing youth. The lab will assess each child's risk of going missing, and use that data to help find them if they disappear.

"We're doing more than law enforcement, we're going out there and trying to stop the crimes from happening to begin with," says Bent. "We hope this lab can help us intervene earlier in the lives of these vulnerable people who may otherwise become victims or active criminals themselves."

BY THE NUMBERS

Housed at Saskatoon police headquarters, the new lab looks small and unassuming. But the nondescript room is filled with humming desktops and tapping computer scientists who will sift through thousands of data files to find trends and patterns among victims and criminals.

Most police agencies already use data and statistics to map out crimes, using a tactic called hot-spotting to find the most crime-ridden areas.

But now, many police organizations, including the SPS, are stepping up their number-crunching game. They're moving away from the traditional statistical methods, focusing instead on probabilities and large-scale patterns solved with algorithms.

"This type of data analysis has been applied to many different organizations, so why not police?" says Daniel Anvari, a researcher from the University of Saskatchewan.

This form of data mining, called predictive analytics, is used for everything from calculating credit scores, to generating tailored deals for loyal customers. When used in policing, predictive analytics can help track individuals and incidents to prevent and solve crimes.

"This will help police make better decisions," says Anvari. "The algorithm isn't going to make any decisions itself, but it may highlight something that could be missed from just looking at the data with our eyes. There might be hidden patterns or correlations that we aren't aware of."

NEW AND OLD

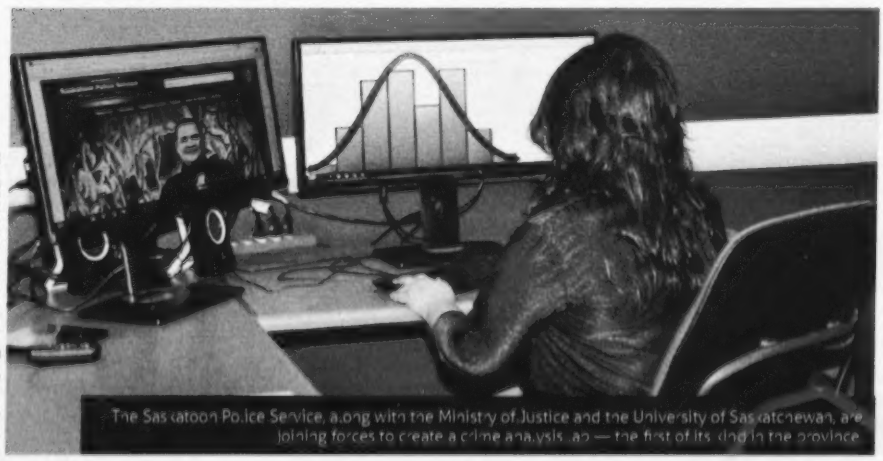
Police have always used the latest technology and hardware to improve their front-line operations, from radar guns to robots. Predictive software is just one more tool to boost police efficiency in an increasingly digital world.

The SPS plans to combine this new software technique with old practices: preventative policing. Police officers will use the data to pinpoint the highest risk individuals, offering them social services and healthcare before their situation escalates.

"There are many police related issues that aren't just 'catch the bad guy'. Many of them are social, not just criminal, and can be prevented beforehand," says Stephen Wormith, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan who is leading the lab. Wormith is also the Director of the Centre of Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies, which is participating in the SPPAL's Missing Persons Project.

Looking forward, Wormith says the team is "only limited by our imagination and our creativity" for the types of projects they can tackle — a prospect that excites Bent.

"We don't know exactly what we're going to find, maybe it's just going to confirm things we know from experience and police intuition," says Bent. "But we all believe there is great potential. Maybe there will be something that's revolutionary that no one has discovered before."



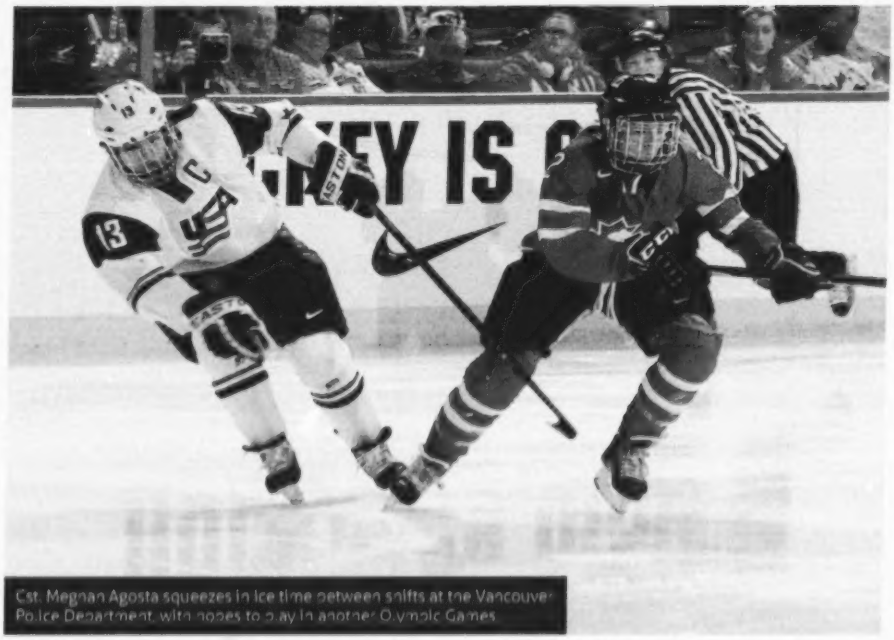
The Saskatoon Police Service, along with the Ministry of Justice and the University of Saskatchewan, are joining forces to create a crime analysis lab — the first of its kind in the province

Deputy Chief Jeff Bent, Saskatoon Police Service

POWER PLAY POLICING

VANCOUVER POLICE SCORE WITH HOCKEY CHAMP

After winning three Olympic gold medals with Canada's national team, hockey player Meghan Agosta decided to pursue her second passion to become a police officer. Now working as a constable in Vancouver, B.C., the 29-year-old reflects on her transition from hockey star to rookie cop. Amelia Thatcher spoke to Agosta about how she stays on her game — on and off the ice.



Hockey Canada

Cst. Meghan Agosta squeezes in ice time between shifts at the Vancouver Police Department with hopes to play in another Olympic Games.

HOW HAS YOUR HOCKEY CAREER HELPED WITH POLICING?

The parallels between policing and hockey are huge. The biggest component between the two is being in a team environment, which I love. Hockey and policing both leave a positive legacy. Stepping out onto the ice and starting my shift, you never know what you're going to get. In policing and in hockey, you need to continue to train to be prepared for the uncertainty. You need to be ready both physically and mentally. Being a professional athlete has prepared me to stay fit, cope with stressful situations, overcome challenges and understand the importance of being a team.

HOW HAS POLICING IMPACTED YOUR HOCKEY GAME?

Playing for Team Canada isn't a right, it's a privilege. Being on the force for the past few years, I've realized that I've become more thankful, appreciative and humble. One philosophy that I've learned in policing that I use in hockey is to improvise, adapt and overcome. It's more of my mindset and mental preparedness. It's really changed me and my perspective on the game. I've become more of a leader, I've put the little things aside, I'm living in the moment and I'm not taking things for granted.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE BOTH?

I'm very organized and I always plan ahead. I take each day at a time and try to enjoy the moment. My focus when I'm in Vancouver is policing. Policing is a very dangerous career, so I need to be 'on' at all times. When I'm working, I need to make sure I'm there and aware of my surroundings and focus just on work. Since becoming a police officer, it hasn't been tough to stay fit. Working out almost every day has allowed me to stay in shape for both hockey and policing.

When I get called to play for Canada, my mind switches from policing to hockey. I don't worry about what's going on in Vancouver. I'm focused on what I can do to help make a difference. Depending on where I'm at — policing or hockey — I prioritize that. Growing up I have always had to plan ahead, be responsible and be resilient.

WHAT'S YOUR AVERAGE WEEK LIKE?

My weeks are very busy not only working shift work, but also focusing on training and then having a personal life. Family is very important to me and I think it's important to find the balance between being a professional athlete, working full time and spending time with the ones I love.

WHAT MAKES IT WORTH IT?

Being able to help make a difference in peoples' lives. Yes, I have a career, but I have a career that I'm very passionate about. I take pride in going to work and enjoy what I do. As police officers, we work 24-7 — we're on call all the time. When someone calls, we're there to help. Going into work, you never know what call you'll be dispatched to and whose life you'll change and that gives me a tremendous sense of pride.

LOOKING FORWARD, WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE?

Balancing hockey and policing has been one of the toughest challenges I've had to face. I'm making these sacrifices because I want to continue to represent Canada at various tournaments. I know I can continue to help Canada be successful and still being so young, my leadership skills, experience and talent can help Canada bring home another gold medal. Not looking too far ahead, my goal is to go to another Olympic Games, which are being held in South Korea in 2018.

And as far as policing goes, right now I'm still focusing on learning every day. Looking ahead, I have set goals of working with a surveillance team, an investigative unit and being a part of the Canine Unit. Also I want to mentor junior members, field train and become a leader, but I have 30 years to get this done.

When I retire from hockey, I want to start my own family and give my kids the opportunities my parents gave me as a little girl.

HOMEGROWN HELP

POLICE SUPPORT ROLE CAPITALIZES ON COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

By Amelia Thatcher

For Norman Prentice, becoming an RCMP officer seemed like the perfect job. Except for one unavoidable catch — he didn't want to move.

After spending 31 years in the small town of Beechy, Sask., the thought of uprooting his life and family for a job posting across the country just didn't make sense.

And so he resigned himself to the fact that maybe police work wasn't the right fit for him. That is, until he spotted a job posting at his local RCMP detachment describing a new role in police support: the community constable.

"At my age I decided I could do it," says the 52-year-old Prentice. "The biggest thing is that I'd never have to move. The people in my community were very excited for me."

The job posting attracted applicants from the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, where the position is being piloted. Men and women of all ages, cultures and backgrounds applied for the job — some with policing experience, others with no training at all.

The first troop of community constables graduated in February 2016, with each new officer returning to his or her local detachment. They'll use their newly acquired skills — combined with their community connections — to police the places they call home.

A FAMILIAR FACE

The RCMP decided two years ago to create the community constable position. Different from general duty police officers, known as regular members, the community constable fills a new niche.

"You're getting someone from your community who wants to be there," says Mike Lahache, who works as a policy analyst at the RCMP's National Crime Prevention Services (NCPS). "It's somebody who intimately knows the community and somebody who knows the people."

The position is aimed at those with an involved and established presence in their communities. The average age of the first troop of community constables is around 40 — much older than most cadets who train at Depot, the RCMP training academy in Regina, Sask.

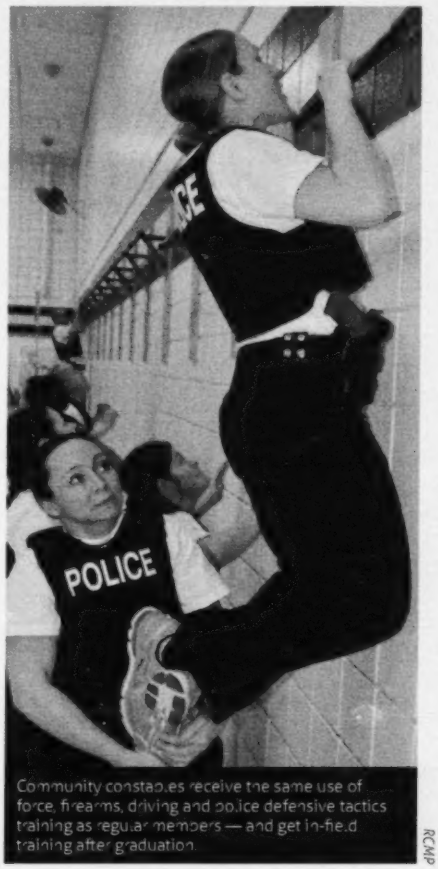
Community constables complement and support the work of police officers, with a greater focus on community engagement and crime prevention. The program takes advantage of the roots recruits have made and the reputation they've developed within their neighbourhoods, with the promise that they'll return home following their training.

Since regular members are stationed and redistributed to new detachments across the country periodically, they rarely have time to adjust to their surroundings, settle their families and get to know residents. This has an impact on local community members, who must adapt to the constant turnover and new faces.

"It can be hard on communities," says Jordan Saucier, who also works as a crime prevention policy analyst with NCPS. "The community constable program provides a long-term presence in the community, and a face that people will know to go to."

Many of the program's recruits have lived in their communities for many years, and plan to stay there well into the future. As a father of two and a local businessman running two grocery stores with his wife, Prentice is an established figure in Beechy. He's also served as a volunteer firefighter, an on-call primary care paramedic and a coroner for local detachments.

"I know about 90 per cent of people in the area," says Prentice. "With my history, I hope I've earned the respect of the people at home. And that's going to help with this new role."



Community constables receive the same use of force, firearms, driving and police defensive tactics training as regular members — and get in-field training after graduation.

RCMP

ALL-PURPOSE POSITION

The community constable is designed to perform almost all of the same tasks a regular member does. They'll act as first responders on scenes, drive police vehicles, carry weapons, visit schools and wear the same uniform as RCMP police officers — yellow-striped pants and all.

"They look and feel just like a regular member," says Lahache. "We wanted the position to be as flexible as possible."

The one thing community constables won't do, however, is lead investigations. The nature of their mandate places more emphasis on crime prevention and community policing, rather than solving crime. As a result, they receive 21 weeks of training — three weeks fewer than regular members.

Many of the freshly graduated constables will use their new arsenal of skills to focus on crime prevention, especially among children and youth in their communities.

"The idea of being proactive and what it could mean for policing really excites me," says Cst. Trina Brace, a community constable from Moosomin, Sask. "I'm hoping to get into the schools and get out there so people can see my face, and let people know if they have issues, they can approach me."

The 43-year-old woman had previously dabbled in law enforcement, working with the Canada Border Services Agency in Saskatoon for eight years before moving

Courtesy Cst. Norman Prentice

Cst. Norman Prentice is already calming the waters in his hometown of Beechy, Sask. While on duty this June, he helped rescue a couple stranded on a personal watercraft far from shore.

to Moosomin. In the small town of 3,000, Brace began working at the Moosomin RCMP Detachment as a clerk, where she thrived on interactions with the community.

"I always tried to talk my detachment commander into taking me out into the community more," says Brace. "I was really wanting to get out in the public in-person rather than talking to people on the phone."

Despite working in the detachment office, Brace had never seriously considered becoming an RCMP officer. As a mother of three with a family to consider, she says she didn't want to move or divide up her family. So when she noticed the community constable job posting on the RCMP's Facebook page advertising stationary, long-term community police work, "It seemed like the perfect fit."

"Because of my other activities — with the school community council, coaching sports and as a board member for the family resource centre — I've already got a strong base relationship with the people in the community and in the surrounding area," she says.

Now, Brace hopes to use the connections she's established over the past 11 years living and working in Moosomin to focus on combating drug activity in schools and property crime in the streets.

FILLING THE GAP

Whether it's in a big city, small town or rural area, community constables bridge gaps in cultural understanding so police can better meet local needs.

Brandon, Man., has a large multicultural population with many new immigrants. Cst. Samuel Oyenuga just returned home there as a newly graduated community constable. He hopes to use his own experiences and background as an African-Canadian to connect with the current community and help any newcomers who may arrive.

"Being someone from a different culture with a different background, I bring something different to the table," says Oyenuga. "I have a knowledge and understanding of how people feel when they move to a different country and try to settle into a new culture. I have experiences so I know how to advise people and I can send people in the right direction to deal with any issues they may have."

Oyenuga came to Canada from Nigeria in 2006 to pursue post-secondary education in Winnipeg. Upon graduating, he was inspired to pursue a career in law enforcement and moved to Brandon in 2010 to work as a corrections officer. When he noticed the community constable position, he thought it would be the right fit and applied.

"When I came to work with the RCMP, I didn't have to start making the connections because I already have these contacts," he says. "Most of the guys I'm working with in Brandon are thankful that they don't have to teach me everything — I already know the area and I know the people."

Through his work as a corrections officer, Oyenuga made connections with the probations office, the John Howard Society for released prisoners, many non-governmental organizations, the Brandon Police Service Mobile Crisis Unit and the Brandon Regional Hospital.

"I can help let the community know that I'm here to stay and that there's continuity of service," he says. "It's important that there's someone who actually knows the community, someone who has a connection, someone who knows the culture and someone who can teach new members about the community."

LOOKING FORWARD

The graduating troop of 15 community constables returned to their respective home communities in March. Both the new graduates and the communities they come from are eager to see positive changes coming on the horizon.

"I've had two schools approach me asking to give talks," says Brace, who is already setting up school visits.

Similarly, many people in Prentice's hometown are anxious to have him back to deter small crimes. He says thefts have been happening lately from his neighbours' garages.

"A couple guys have said, 'Your presence will be nice, if people know you're in town and around, maybe things like that won't happen.' "

The community constable program is slated for review by the RCMP within the next few years, and there is already interest in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Yukon. If the program is a success, it will be extended across Canada.

RCMP

Maintaining the most appropriate level of situational awareness can help prevent fatal errors.

AVOIDING FATAL CONSEQUENCES

MENTAL CONDITIONING SURVIVAL STRATEGIES IN POLICING

By John Walker

A spate of police fatalities in the 1970s triggered a new paradigm in officer survival training. In one tragic incident, four highway patrol officers, each with less than two years policing experience, were killed by two heavily armed criminals during an assumed routine traffic stop in Newhall, Calif.

In his survival guide, Tom Kohl described it as one of the darkest days in law enforcement history. A subsequent investigation of the Newhall massacre found that the officers had not received adequate field training.[1]

This article will describe three practical mental conditioning methods that are reinforced today in operational safety training, and provide real examples from police officers to illustrate how they apply.

These methods are thoroughly documented in the book *Tactical Edge* by Charles Remsberg.[2] Although the methods have been taught for decades, they're worth revisiting.

THE 10 FATAL ERRORS

An online search will uncover numerous lists that identify mistakes that police officers make and how to avoid them. The following 10 fatal errors bear repeating:

- Complacency, apathy
- Getting caught in a bad position
- Not perceiving danger signals
- Relaxing too soon
- False perceptions and assumptions
- Tombstone courage
- Fatigue and stress
- Not enough rest
- Poor attitude
- Equipment not maintained

EXAMPLE: FALSE PERCEPTIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

In this example, police were responding to an armed robbery when a fatal accident occurred. During a high-speed pursuit, the officer driving a marked highway patrol car collided with an unmarked police car. The driver assumed that when the unmarked vehicle in front of him pulled over to the side of the road, it was to allow him to pass. In normal traffic situations, he would have been perceptually conditioned that *"vehicles ahead always pull over when police emergency lights/siren are activated."* A likely assumption was that other police units were on the same radio frequency.

In reality, the unmarked car in front was pulling over to make a 360-degree turn after receiving updated directions. That driver may, in turn, have assumed the officer driving the marked patrol unit had received the same radio message. Tragically, they were on different radio channels.

THE AWARENESS SPECTRUM

In *Tactical Edge*, Remsburg outlines an effective situational awareness and stress perception management system known as the Awareness Spectrum, which identifies five levels of awareness and perception control. Maintaining the most appropriate level of awareness is crucial.

White: situationally unaware, daydreaming, unfocused, mind in neutral

Yellow: alert, observant but relaxed, scanning, observing, attentive to the situation, focus broad

Orange: potential threat, volatility, increased

alertness, focus narrowing on threat area

Red: imminent high-risk danger, life threatening, very narrow focus on source of the threat, hands, knife, gun, vehicle

Black: overwhelmed by fight/flight stress (panic, paralysis), visually overwhelmed, loss of focus and inability to make a decision

EXAMPLE: LACK OF SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

A police officer was writing up overdue parking tickets in a suburban supermarket lot. According to a witness, a clearly distressed person approached the officer abusing and shouting at him. The officer was seen ignoring the person and turned his back to the source of threat, continuing to complete the ticket. He may have been in "condition white," thinking this is mundane, boring work: *"Just another rant about a ticket."*

But the distressed man pulled out a knife and moved very quickly towards the officer who turned around and panicked ("condition white" to "black": fight/flight stress overload). He dropped his ticket book and put his hands in the air. The witness reported that the officer, although armed, appeared stunned and did nothing to protect himself. He was fatally stabbed.

Officer safety statistics show that a hostile person with an edged weapon can move 11 feet (3.4 metres) in one second.

MYTHS AND FALSE BELIEFS

Interviews with police officers about fatalities and serious injuries suffered by their shift partners have revealed that the injured officers held certain beliefs that reduced their levels of alertness or appropriateness of response to an emerging danger.

While some of these beliefs may at first appear outdated, many continue to be held and have led to fatal outcomes in recent years:

- It's only routine
- There are two of us/I have backup
- Nothing ever happens on a Sunday
- They're only kids
- It's only a traffic violation
- It couldn't happen here
- I can handle it/stress doesn't affect me/I'm armed and trained
- Women don't fight or commit violent crimes

EXAMPLE: WOMEN DON'T ROB BANKS

In this instance, a police officer was responding to a bank alarm on a hot summer day. A bystander saw him shouting at a woman, who was in close proximity to the bank and was wearing a full-length leather coat. When she didn't respond, he ran up to her and warned her to take cover. He was shot and killed by the woman, who had just robbed the bank and was concealing a sawed-off shotgun under her coat. Did the officer believe that women don't rob banks? Possibly. He also didn't perceive the long heavy leather coat being worn on an extremely hot day as a danger signal.

Today, counteracting extreme fight/flight stress, awareness/perception errors and myth constructs through mental conditioning has become a key focus in police officer survival training. But more can be done to ensure fatal consequences are prevented.

DETACHMENT SUPERVISION

It's critical that supervisors of operational police identify and communicate potential fatal errors, awareness issues and myths that could place team members in danger, and discuss and review them regularly. The RCMP's Incident Management Intervention Model, known as IMIM, is an ideal context for this.

Police officers need to be updated with information about who they are dealing with in their patrol zones and what risks they face when encountering them. Too often, violent attacks on officers are caused by misreading behaviour. An apparently quiet and compliant person can be deeply hostile, for instance. Any crucial officer safety information should be handed over during shift changes and followed up with posts, emails or other methods of communication.

IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR

If the supervisor doesn't communicate what's happening in the zone, police officers may not communicate it with each other, either. And they won't be in the best position to respond appropriately to potential dangers. The supervisor must get beyond the paper work and get out on patrol to observe, support and ensure members are doing their jobs as safely as possible. Critically, they must follow up with officers if action needs to be taken.

ONGOING TRAINING

At every pre-shift watch briefing, a developmental and/or training item can be reviewed and discussed. This way, every police officer is exposed to some type of recurrent training at the beginning of each shift.

Mental conditioning techniques could be reinforced in an operational context. The topics, supported by the shift supervisor's experience, would reinforce the consequences of making fatal errors such as 'getting caught in a bad position.' It could complement field-scenario training, possibly long forgotten, such as how to safely approach vehicles or homes, and how to be vigilant about where they stand, how to knock on a door, and so on.

IN CONCLUSION

Fatal incidents validate the importance of ongoing tactical and mental conditioning training. Police officers face deadly threats as the horrific fatalities in Mayerthorpe, Alta., and more recently in Moncton, N.B., demonstrate. The IMIM introduced at the RCMP's training academy and made mandatory for all its police officers, is a significant step in managing risk.

Additionally, avoiding the consequences of fatal errors, maintaining the most appropriate levels of awareness and challenging personal myths are valuable constructs that are easily reinforced and highly effective when coupled with effective supervision and tactics.

John Walker has researched, designed and delivered operational and managerial programs for Canadian and international police agencies. His topics include stress and trauma management within hostage negotiation, ERT training and crisis intervention.

References

[1] Kohl, Tom. *Staying Alive on the Job - A Survival Guide for Peace Officers*, The California Newhall Incident.

[2] Remsberg, Charles. *Tactical Edge: Surviving High-Risk Patrol*. Calibre Press, 1985.

With contributions from A/Commr. Frank Richter (Ret.), S/Sgt. Bill shumborski (Ret.) and Sgt. Jean Caron (Ret.).

LATEST RESEARCH IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

The following are excerpts from recent research related to justice and law enforcement and reflect the views and opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the organizations for which they work.

Compiled by Eric Stewart

UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE IN CRIME PREVENTION

By Peter Homel and Georgina Fuller

In Australia, crime prevention is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments. What is less understood is the significant role of local government in developing and delivering crime prevention at the community level, although councils have long been involved in helping to create safer communities.

This research offers one of the first detailed insights into the valuable contribution made by local government within the multilayered crime prevention strategies and initiatives which keep Australian communities safe. The Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee of the Parliament of Victoria carried out this research as part of an investigation into locally based approaches to community safety and crime prevention in 2011. The results of a comprehensive survey of the crime prevention activities of local government authorities across Victoria are examined.

A self-completion survey was designed for distribution to all local government authorities (LGAs) in Victoria. The questionnaire was a modified version of a survey form developed by the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) for use in an international study of local government. However, the survey was modified to reflect the committee's needs and Victorian circumstances and included a mix of quantitative and qualitative items.

One of the most consistent issues identified by the LGAs was that they did not feel adequately equipped to make informed decisions about crime prevention and community safety. This was not just about the lack of adequate financial resources, although this was a problem identified by many, but also about a lack of skills and technical capacity for maximizing the potential benefit to their communities when they do manage to get crime prevention and community safety programs going.

While it was clear that most Victorian LGAs are committed to playing a significant role in developing, co-ordinating and delivering crime prevention and community safety policies and programs in their local area, only a minority reported having specific strategies to guide their activities.

Too often, considering the need for developing and implementing a crime prevention strategy is the result of community concern about existing crime problems. If appropriate preventive action had been taken beforehand, these problems may have been prevented from emerging. This is another argument for local government authorities taking the lead in developing a comprehensive crime prevention strategic plan for their communities as a part of their normal social planning processes. These plans should be regularly updated to reflect changes in the social, demographic, economic and crime characteristics of their communities as well as to accommodate developments in state and national crime prevention priorities.

National and state policies and programs around crime prevention and community safety are frequently silent on the role of local government authorities, or see them merely as funding recipients and program delivery agents. As this survey demonstrates, this grossly underestimates the capacity and potential for local government to play a pivotal role in creating safer communities in Australia.

READ THE FULL REPORT:
aic.gov.au/publications/

EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF HAND-HELD CELLPHONE DETECTORS IN A PRISON SETTING

By Joe Russo

In response to the major and growing problem of contraband cellphones, correctional administrators have increasingly turned to technological solutions to prevent contraband cellphones from entering facilities and to detect them. These solutions are marketed to administrators who are eager to address this critical issue. Unfortunately, products are often introduced into the correctional environment without rigorous, independent testing in an operational setting.

To address this problem, the National Institute of Justice funded an evaluation of one particular solution: hand-held cellphone detectors through the Corrections Technology Center of Excellence, which is part of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center system. Three different types of detection devices were evaluated: radio frequency detection (RFD) devices, nonlinear junction detector (NLJD) devices and ferromagnetic detection (FMD) devices.

The researchers tested four devices: two RFDs (PocketHound and WolfHound Pro), one NLJD (Orion 2.4) and one FMD (MantaRay). The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections provided a medium-security prison as a test site and officers from their search team to assist with testing. Officers were trained in the operation of each device, and a test plan was developed to evaluate the devices in three distinct settings: baseline testing, operational patrol testing and operational cell search, which were designed to align with the institution's normal procedures for each type of activity.

Each device that was tested employs a unique technical approach and, as a result, is better suited for some search applications than others. RFD devices performed extremely well at long ranges (70 to 125 feet), detecting each cellphone while producing no false alarms. Correctional officers who participated in the study preferred these devices for their utility during cellblock patrols. It should be noted, however, that RFD devices are effective only when the phone is actively making a call. Testing showed that the NLJD and FMD devices can detect cellphones in the on or off positions, which is an advantage; however, the operator must be in very close proximity to the phone (less than 8 inches).

After a 60-day use of all four devices following the formal testing, the officers overall preferred the RFD devices over the NLJD and FMD devices. The officers tended

Research into the growing prevalence of contraband cellphones in correctional facilities found that hand-held cellphone detectors could contribute to solving the problem.

to dismiss the NLJD and FMD devices for two important reasons: frustration by the false alarms that these units generated (more so for the FMD than the NLJD) and the limited detection distance. Officers reported that they are trained to search items in a cell — and the cell itself — thoroughly, so they consider a detection device that operates at such a close range of little value because their thorough manual search would likely find the phone as quickly, or more quickly, than an electronic device would. The exception might be cases in which a cellphone is hidden in a hard-to-access place, such as within a cinderblock or inside a toilet.

Technology can provide a variety of tools to combat the contraband cellphone problem, each with possible strengths and limitations. Thus, corrections personnel are cautioned against making direct comparisons of products that use dissimilar approaches, such as the handheld cellphone detection devices. Results of this study show that hand-held cellphone detectors could contribute to solving the contraband cellphone problem, but are not the sole answer. A multilayered approach that includes sound policies, procedures, practices and proven technology solutions continues to be the recommended best practice for combatting contraband cellphones in correctional facilities.

READ THE FULL REPORT:
www.ncjrs.gov/

FINAL RESULTS — STOP NOW AND PLAN (SNAP)

By Donna Smith-Moncrieffe

Stop Now And Plan (SNAP) is a community-based program for children ages six to 12 who have come into contact, or are at risk of coming into contact, with the criminal justice system, and/or who display early signs of anti-social or aggressive behaviour.

The program uses a cognitive-behavioural, multi-component approach to decrease the risks of children engaging in future delinquent behaviour. The SNAP model is based on a comprehensive framework for effectively teaching children with serious behavioural problems, emotional regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills.

The core program components include the children's and parent's groups. The SNAP Boys and SNAP Girls offer 12-week gender-specific groups that teach emotion regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills. The concurrent SNAP Parent Group teaches parents effective child management strategies. Other program components include individual counselling/mentoring, family counselling, academic tutoring, youth leadership and a gender-specific component called "Girls Growing Up Healthy." These are recommended based on a continuing assessment of the child's risk and need levels.

This summary provides an overview of the multi-site impact evaluation of SNAP that was funded by the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS). The multisite impact evaluation assessed the efficacy of this program in three unique communities (Toronto, Edmonton and Cree Nation – Quebec), contributing to the collective body of knowledge of what works in crime prevention.

Interviews with parents in Edmonton, Alta., and Toronto, Ont. indicated that there were treatment gains in the area of externalizing behaviours and to a lesser extent in internalizing behaviours, parent/child communications and relationships, child sociability and social competence. Moreover, interviews with Cree parents suggest solid treatment gains in children with regards to externalizing behaviour (especially rule breaking, aggression and defiance), parent–child communication and quality of relationship, and overall child sociability. Several parents noted the positive impact SNAP made on their roster of parenting skills resulting in an increase in parenting confidence.

This analysis combined with the qualitative findings contribute to evidence that the SNAP program contributes to favourable changes in key externalizing and internalizing behaviours that, when altered, can reduce future involvement in the criminal justice system.

READ THE FULL REPORT:
www.publicsafety.gc.ca

A SMARTER WAY TO SAFETY

INTERVENTION PROGRAM SAVES LIVES IN SURREY

By Amelia Thatcher

It's 3 a.m. when a patrol officer comes across a 16-year-old girl sleeping underneath the SkyTrain tracks in Surrey, B.C. She's huddled in a tent with two homeless men in their 40s. The young girl has mental health and addiction problems, hasn't been to school in months, and — she's pregnant.

The usual police response would be to refer the girl to local social workers. But now, Surrey RCMP have kick-started a new intervention program to better handle calls relating to social issues in the downtown core.

The Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table (SMART) doesn't wait for incidents to happen. The proactive program targets unstable individuals to prevent the need for an emergency response down the line.

The program connects representatives from law enforcement, corrections, housing, health, social services, income assistance and education to help at-risk residents get the support they need to stay safe and out of trouble.

"It's about having all the services and resources you might need sitting at that table so they can be mobilized in a speedy way," says Morten Bisgaard, a manager at the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, and a co-chair of SMART. "These are cases where serious harm could come to an individual unless we respond very quickly."

PREVENTATIVE PROCESS

In 2014, over 60 per cent of the Surrey detachment's calls for service dealt with social issues such as substance abuse, poverty, homelessness and mental health. Police officers, often untrained to deal with these issues, could only refer these residents to various social services.

But in 2015, the RCMP enlisted the help of trained service professionals from all areas of social care in Surrey to create SMART. The goal is to intercept the highest-risk people — those in dire need of healthcare, income or basic human necessities — and address their problems before they become involved with police or end up in a hospital.

Every Tuesday morning, members of the SMART team sit down and discuss high-risk cases their agencies can't handle alone.

"If we want to save lives, we have to talk about these people together," says Insp. Ghalib Bhayani, a community support and safety officer in Surrey. "With SMART, when you have that 16-year-old girl's case presented to the table, four or five hands go up and take part ownership of her well-being."

After SMART undertakes a case, members from the relevant agencies go out into Surrey to track down the at-risk target. An intervention — including finding the person and offering them resources — takes place within 48 hours.

"A lot of people that come to this table would be missed otherwise," says Bisgaard. "They're the type of people that, if we weren't able to help them, they'd end up dead or seriously injured."

CREATING A NETWORK

SMART is built around the Hub model — a collaborative preventative approach to reducing crime. Since it began in Prince Albert, Sask. in 2011, the Hub model has expanded to 55 communities across Canada, with Surrey being the most recent.

So far, SMART has successfully intervened and closed more than 70 cases. Jodi Sturge, Deputy Executive Director of Lookout Emergency Aid Society which provides housing to low-income residents, says SMART is a good way to exchange information that otherwise wouldn't be shared.

"We brought one client to the table, and when it came time to find them, they were quite hidden and homeless. When we brought police to where they were living, the RCMP were unaware of the location, and they were shocked that people were staying there," she says. "We gained a better understanding of each others' area of expertise."

Sturge says SMART also helps the RCMP look at things from a support point of view, rather than a criminal justice perspective.

"Our work is a lot of crisis intervention, and this is an approach we've never had before," says Sturge. "It lets the community know that we're there."

Surrey is already planning to expand SMART beyond the downtown-core neighbourhood to reach more residents.

As for the 16-year-old girl sleeping under the SkyTrain, Bhayani says SMART is the first step to making sure she's safe, and getting her life back on track.

"We'll offer her every opportunity — housing, education and healthcare, including prenatal, to make her and her baby succeed in life."

Surrey RCMP

SMART partners include Surrey RCMP, City of Surrey, Surrey School District, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC Housing, Fraser Health, Lookout Emergency Aid Society, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, and the private and business sectors in the City Centre.